

# KLAW

JURION / OZANAM

THE CYCLE  
REBORN



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## THE CYCLE REBORN

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## THE DIZHI LAWS:

- 1) A DIZHI IS A HUMAN HOST CONTAINING ONE OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ANCIENT ANIMAL SPIRITS, CALLED TOTEMS. THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF TOTEMS: THE TWELVE ZODIAC TOTEMS AND THE TWELVE FORGOTTEN TOTEMS. THESE TOTEMS ARE AGELESS AND, LIKE ENERGY, CAN NEITHER BE CREATED NOR DESTROYED.
- 2) EACH TOTEM HAS UNIQUE POWERS AND ABILITIES WHICH THEIR HUMAN HOST CAN ACCESS BY TRANSFORMING OR PARTIALLY-TRANSFORMING INTO A HYBRID WERE-STATE RESEMBLING THAT TOTEM'S ANIMAL.
- 3) EACH TOTEM CAN BOND WITH TWO SEPARATE HOSTS, REFERRED TO AS BINOMIALS OR HOST PARTNERS. THE TOTEM CAN ONLY POSSESS ONE OF THESE TWO HOSTS AT A TIME, HOWEVER, AND WILL MOST OFTEN CHOOSE THE ONE WITH THE GREATEST IMMEDIATE NEED.
- 4) A TOTEM CAN BE FORCEFULLY SEPARATED FROM ONE OF ITS HOSTS BY ANOTHER DIZHI, USUALLY AT THE COST OF THE HOST'S LIFE. IN MOST CASES, THE FREED TOTEM WILL BE RE-ABSORBED OR "STOLEN" BY THE DIZHI WHO DEFEATED IT. IN SOME CASES, A TOTEM CAN BE IMPRISONED WITHIN AN OBJECT OR VESSEL WITHOUT A HOST.
- 5) A DIZHI CAN POSSESS MORE THAN ONE TOTEM AT ONCE. THIS CAN ALLOW FOR A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF POWERS AND VISUAL TRANSFORMATION COMBINATIONS. CONTAINING MORE THAN ONE TOTEM TENDS TO DRIVE THE HOST INTO AN ADDICTION-LIKE HUNGER TO ABSORB MORE TOTEMS.
- 6) TO DATE, THE MOST TOTEMS SAFELY CONTAINED BY A SINGLE DIZHI IS FIVE. EXCEEDING THAT THRESHOLD CAN TRIGGER A DISASTROUS SINGULARITY EVENT.

## THE STORY SO FAR:

ANGEL TOMASSINI WAS AN AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOLER WHEN HE FIRST DISCOVERED THE HIDDEN WORLD OF THE DIZHIS. AS THE SON OF A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN (AND NOTORIOUS MAFIA CRIME LORD), HIS EYES WERE OPENED TO THIS EXCITING AND DANGEROUS REALM BY HIS FRIEND AND BODYGUARD, DAN, WHO CARRIED THE TIGER TOTEM IN SECRET UNTIL ANGEL WAS READY TO ACCEPT HIS FATE AS A DIZHI.

HE SOON BECAME WRAPPED UP IN AN AGELESS CONFLICT BETWEEN POWERFUL DIZHIS WITH INDIVIDUAL -- AND OFTEN NEFARIOUS -- AGENDAS, A "WERE-WAR" WITH THE SUBJUGATION OF HUMANITY AS ITS ULTIMATE GOAL.

AFTER EXTRICATING HIMSELF FROM HIS FATHER'S CRIMINAL LEGACY, ANGEL TRAVELED THE GLOBE IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND ANSWERS WHILE AVOIDING DETECTION BY OTHER HOSTILE DIZHIS AND A ZEALOUS FEDERAL AGENT NAMED OSWALD JONES. RUNNING PROVED FUTILE, HOWEVER, AS THE ZODIAC DIZHIS HAD MANY WAYS OF TRACKING DOWN OTHER TOTEM CARRIERS. IN THE COURSE OF HIS ADVENTURES, ANGEL ABSORBED ADDITIONAL TOTEMS WHICH INTRODUCED NEW AND UNIQUE COMBINATIONS OF POWERS AND FORMS. HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS DANGEROUS ADDICTION BY FINDING A GROUP OF TRUSTWORTHY ALLIES WITH WHOM HE VOLUNTARILY SHARED THESE TOTEMS, MENTORING THEM IN THE RULES OF BEING A DIZHI.

THIS TEAM OF FLEDGLING HEROES FACED THEIR FIRST SIGNIFICANT THREAT WHEN A NEW GROUP OF UNKNOWN DIZHIS -- THE FORGOTTEN TWELVE, LET BY SAMIR THAT CAT -- EMERGED FROM HIDING WITH THEIR FOCUS ON CONTROLLING ALL OF THE TOTEMS THEMSELVES. GUIDED BY A PSYCHIC NAMED SHAAZ, ANGEL'S YOUNG DIZHI APPRENTICES FIND THEMSELVES BOTH HUNTER AND HUNTED, CONSTANTLY ON THEIR TOES WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD AT STAKE.

AT THE PEAK OF THIS CONFLICT BETWEEN WARRING DIZHI FACTIONS, ONE LONE DIZHI BECAME HELLBENT ON CONTAINING THEM ALL HIMSELF, AND IN HIS MANIA, TRIGGERED A CATAclysmic SINGULARITY THAT NOT ONLY DESTROYED DETROIT, BUT SEEMINGLY WIPED OUT ALL TOTEM SPIRITS FROM THE EARTH AS WELL. NOW, POWERLESS BUT NO LESS AMBITIOUS, THE FORMER DIZHIS MUST SORT OUT THEIR PRIOR AGENDAS IN A WORLD DEVOID OF TOTEMS...

PART TEN:  
**THE RAIN**







I HOPE FOR EVERYBODY'S SAKE YOU DIDN'T WAKE ME UP FOR NOTHING.

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL REGRET COMING HERE, COMMISSIONER...



COMMISSIONER BOZULICH, WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU.



WHAT DO WE HAVE?



TWO BODIES, A MAN HERE AND A WOMAN UPSTAIRS.

BOTH KILLED BY CROSSBOW, PROBABLY TO MAKE AS LITTLE NOISE AS POSSIBLE.



IS THAT ALL?

HARDLY. EVERYTHING SUGGESTS THERE WERE ALMOST A DOZEN KIDS LIVING HERE.

NO SIGN OF THEM...











COMMISSIONER,  
YOU SHOULD  
SEE THIS!

?!

WE'VE JUST COME BACK FROM  
PATROLLING THE HOUSE GROUNDS...



I DECIDED IT WAS  
BETTER TO KEEP  
HER UPSTAIRS...

"HER?"



WE FOUND HER IN THE  
FOREST HIDING BEHIND  
A TREE STUMP.

HELLO... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



AVANDI.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED  
HERE? WHERE ARE THE OTHER CHILDREN?

PAULA AND JAMAL RAN AWAY, SO WE ALL WENT  
TO LOOK FOR THEM... BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN WE LOST  
OUR POWERS... SOME OF US EVEN FELL  
ASLEEP...



AFTERWARDS, SOME  
PEOPLE ATTACKED US... AND WE  
COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT  
OUR POWERS...



WHAT IS  
SHE TALKING  
ABOUT?

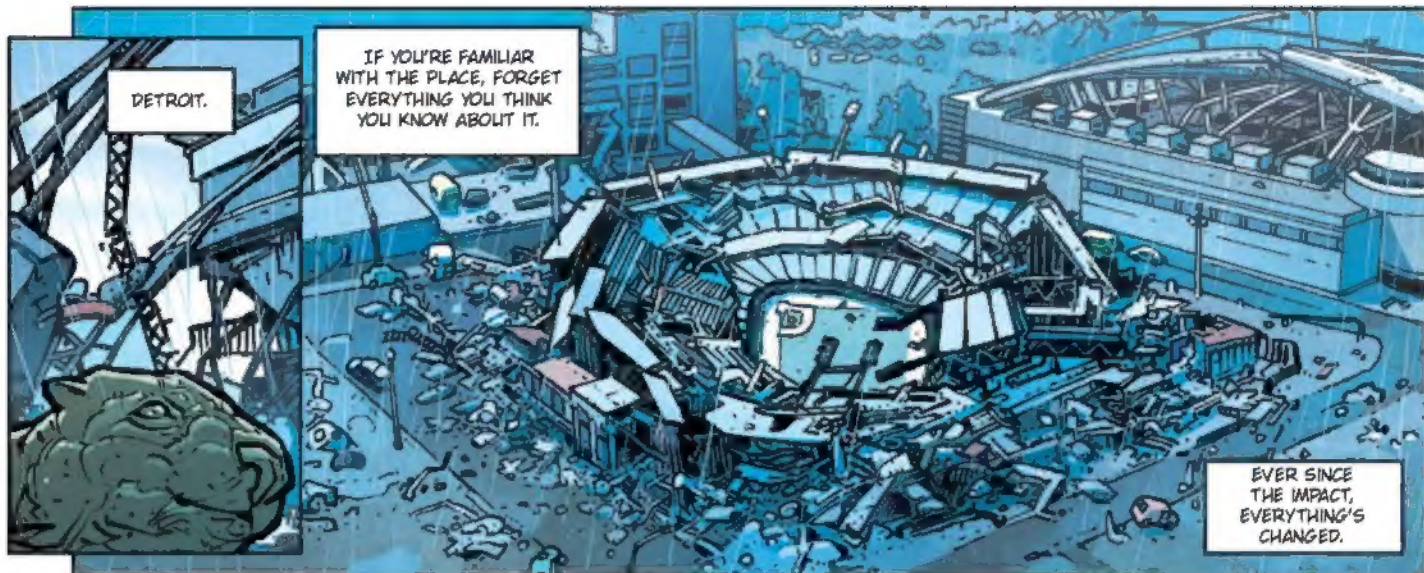
I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
HER EITHER...



THE BAD GUYS  
TOOK ALL THE  
KIDS...!

EVEN THE  
ONES WHO WERE  
SLEEPING...





DETROIT.

IF YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE PLACE, FORGET EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT IT.

EVER SINCE THE IMPACT, EVERYTHING'S CHANGED.



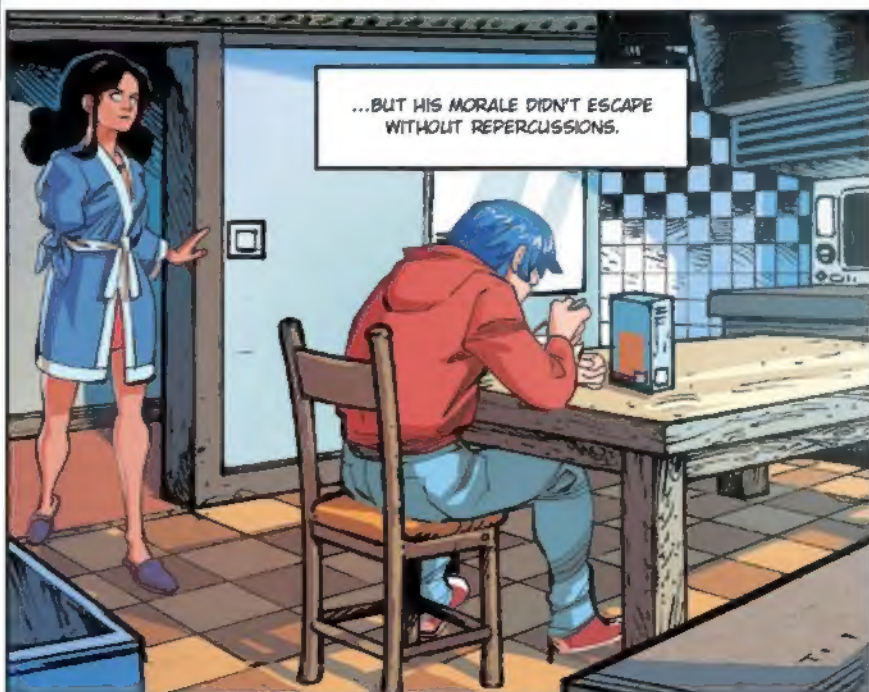
LIKE ME, FOR EXAMPLE. I WAS ONCE A SUPERHERO. I ADMIT IT WASN'T FOR LONG, AND YEAH, I STOLE THE IDENTITY OF ANOTHER SUPERHERO.

BUT IT WAS STILL BETTER THAN TODAY!

OKAY, I'LL STOP COMPLAINING. A MISSING ARM ISN'T MUCH WHEN YOU COMPARE IT TO LATE-STAGE CANCER.



THE IMPACT WAS HARD ON EVERYONE. ANGE DIDN'T SUFFER ANY PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES...



...BUT HIS MORALE DIDN'T ESCAPE WITHOUT REPERCUSSIONS.

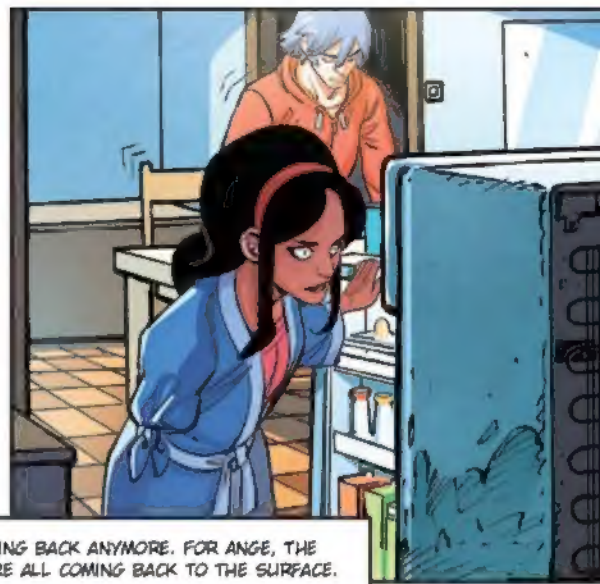




EVER SINCE HE GOT HIS MEMORIES BACK, HE'S BURIED HIS HEAD IN SILENCE... ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE OF THE DIZHI DISAPPEARANCE.



THE EFFECTS OF THEIR DISCARDED POWERS ARE UNRAVELING.



FOR ME, MY LIMBS AREN'T GROWING BACK ANYMORE. FOR ANGE, THE MEMORIES ERASED BY THE STAG ARE ALL COMING BACK TO THE SURFACE.



IT'S NOT EXACTLY EASY FOR HIM TO REALIZE WHAT A BIG IDIOT HE HAD BEEN. EVEN IF IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.



SO, EVEN THREE WEEKS LATER, HE CONTINUES HIS RELENTLESS SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS.

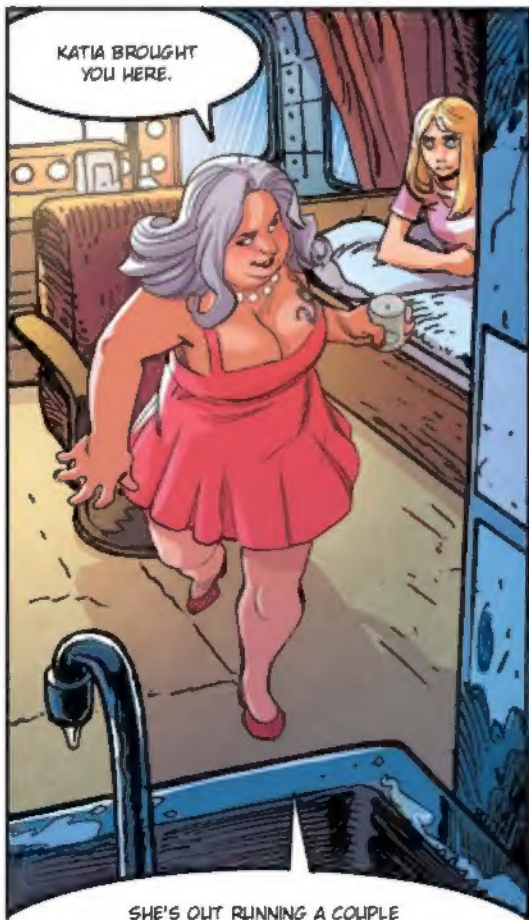


I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAVE TO HAPPEN FOR THAT TO CHANGE...



...FOR ANGE TO BECOME A LITTLE BIT LIKE HIMSELF AGAIN.





SHE'S OUT RUNNING A COUPLE ERRANDS, BUT SHE SHOULD BE BACK SOON.



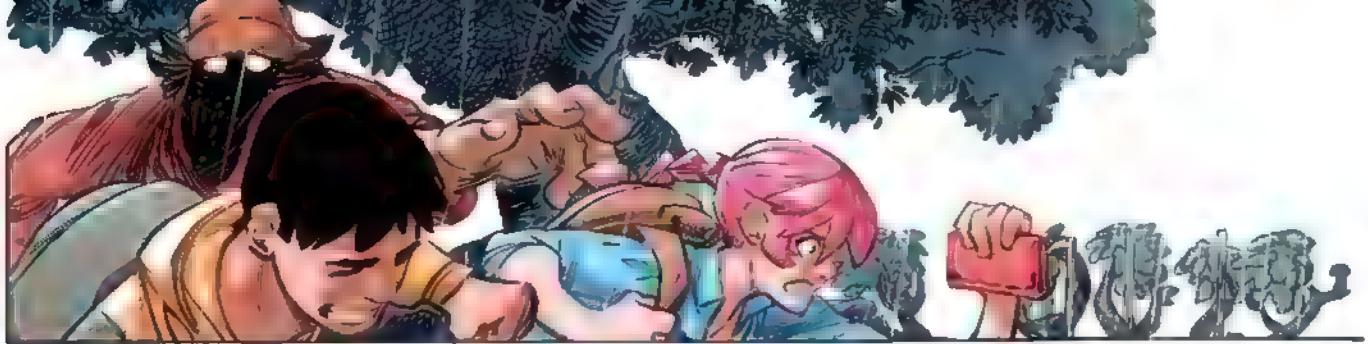
IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE THE INCIDENT IN DETROIT. BUT YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR 6 DAYS.











STAY HERE,  
YOU!

YOU DAMN COWARD! ARE YOU  
REALLY GONNA LET YOUR  
FRIEND HERE TAKE THE FALL  
FOR YOU?!

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S  
JUST MISSING THE  
CLAWS...



A REAL  
TIGRESS!



I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET  
MY HANDS ON YOU FOR  
OVER A WEEK.

YOU'RE THE ONES  
WHO'VE BEEN EATING  
MY GRAPES?



YOU'RE GONNA  
COME WITH ME TO THE  
POLICE. WE'LL SEE  
WHAT YOU HAVE TO  
SAY TO THEM.

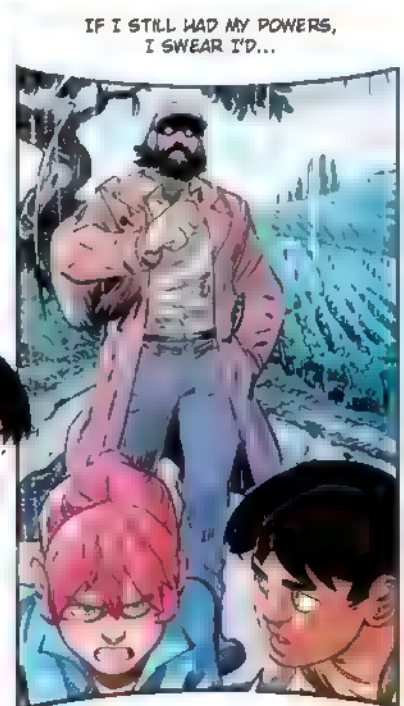


PLEASE, SIR. WE'RE  
HAPPY TO WORK FOR YOU,  
BUT DON'T TAKE US TO  
THE POLICE...



THAT'S JUST ONE MORE  
REASON TO BRING YOU  
THERE.

ALRIGHT,  
GET MOVING.



IF I STILL HAD MY POWERS,  
I SWEAR I'D...

BE QUIET! WE'RE NORMAL NOW.  
SO DON'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY.





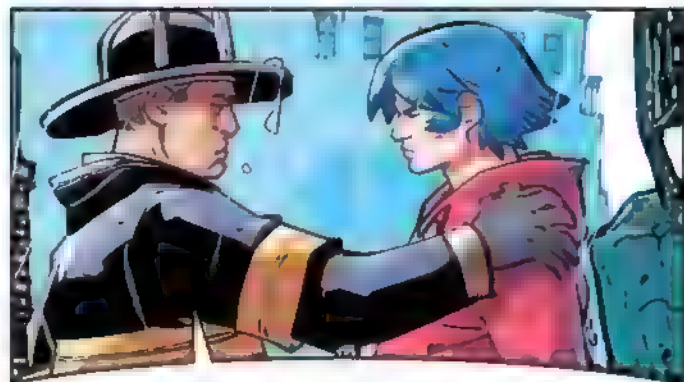
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, ANGE. AFTER 15 DAYS, THE CHANCES OF FINDING SOMEONE ALIVE GETS CLOSE TO ZERO PERCENT.

AFTER THREE WEEKS, IT'S JUST A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY.



THAT'S NOT A COMMENT ON YOUR DEVOTION. SEVERAL PEOPLE OWE YOU THEIR LIVES.

YEAH, SURE, I SHOULD JUST GET BACK TO MY OWN BUSINESS...



I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU FEEL USELESS... THAT'S SOMETHING WE LEARN TO OVERCOME WHEN WE WORK IN A FIELD LIKE THIS.



STOP IT!

I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND.



YOU NEED TO GET SOME HELP!

YOUR ASSISTANCE HERE DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!



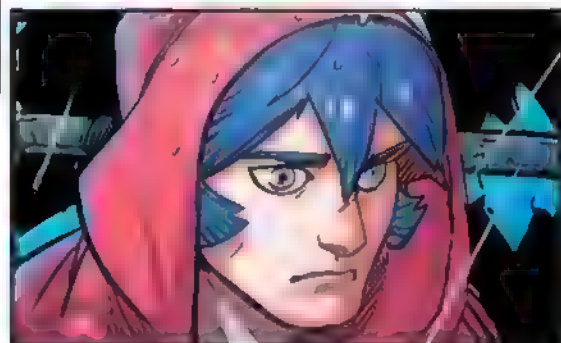
SURE...

HE'S RIGHT. I HAVE TOO MUCH ANGER IN ME.



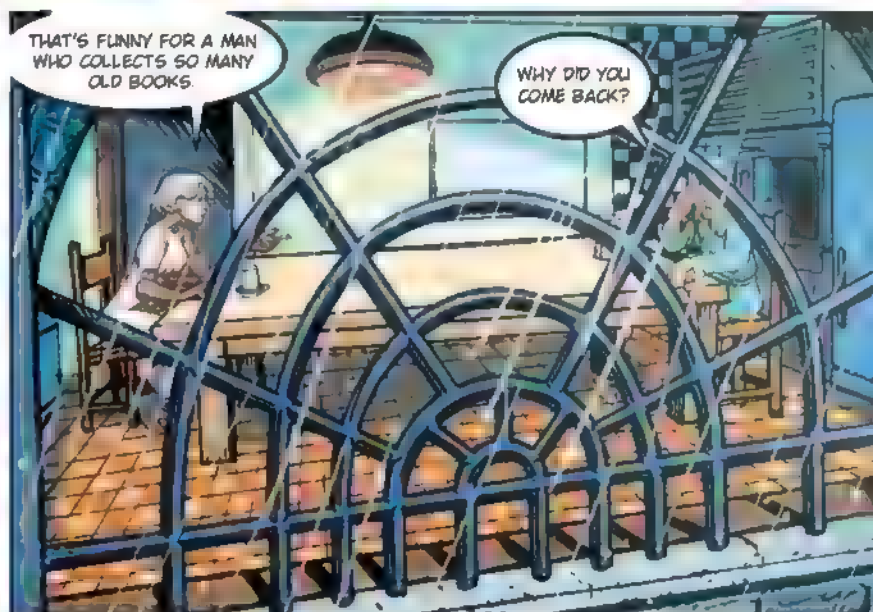
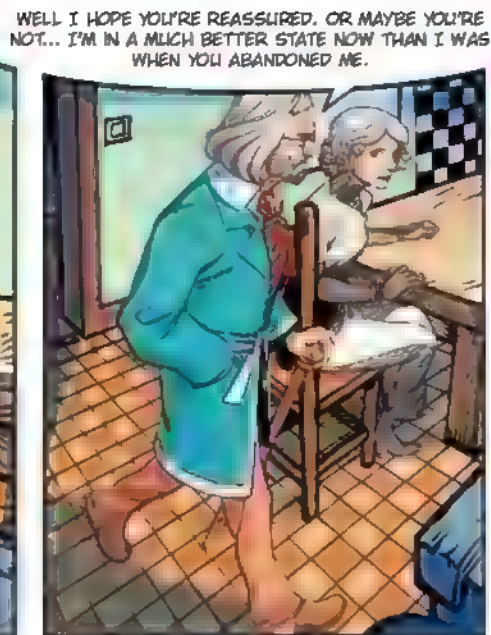
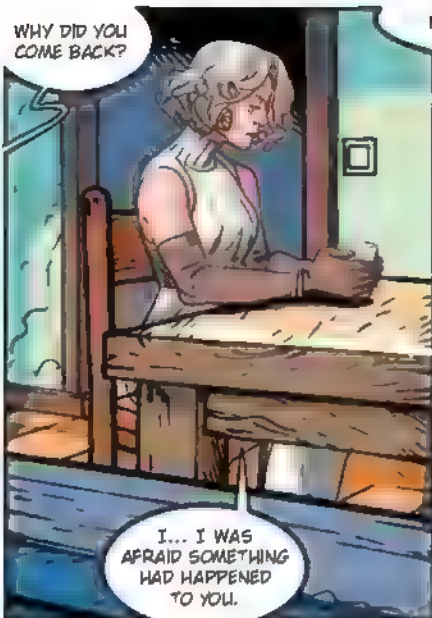
I SHOULD GO BACK AND APOLOGIZE.

BUT I CAN'T.

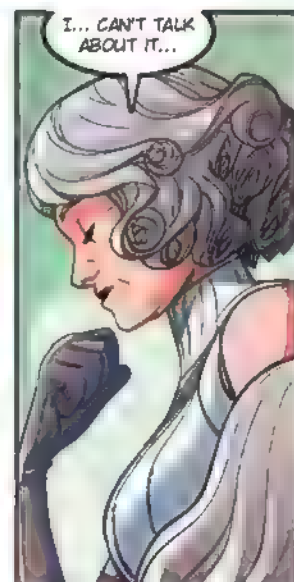


I MISS THE TIGER. FEELING DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE. BELIEVING THAT I'M SPECIAL...

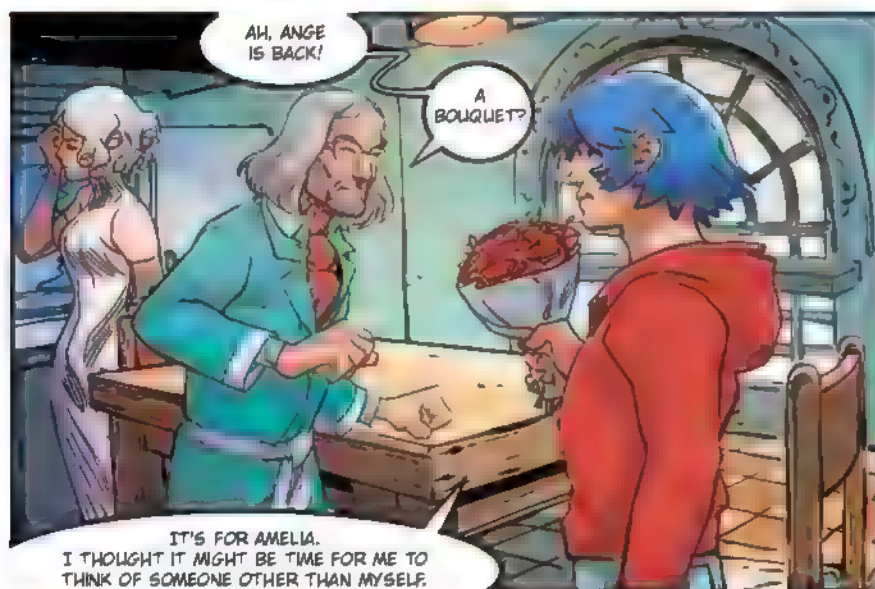
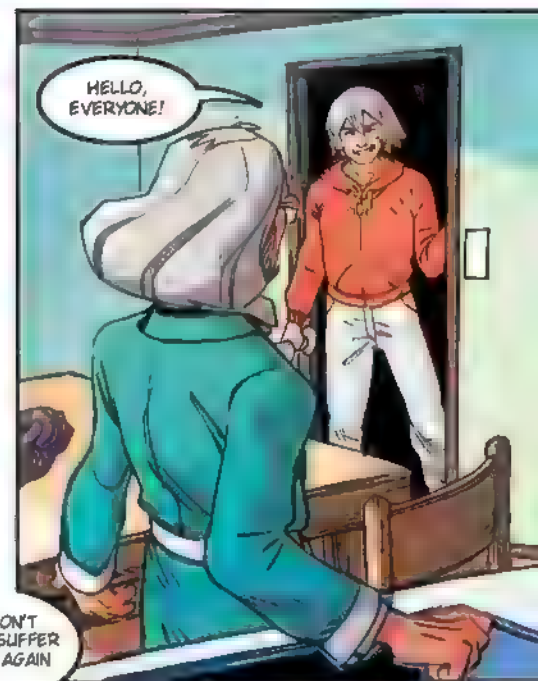
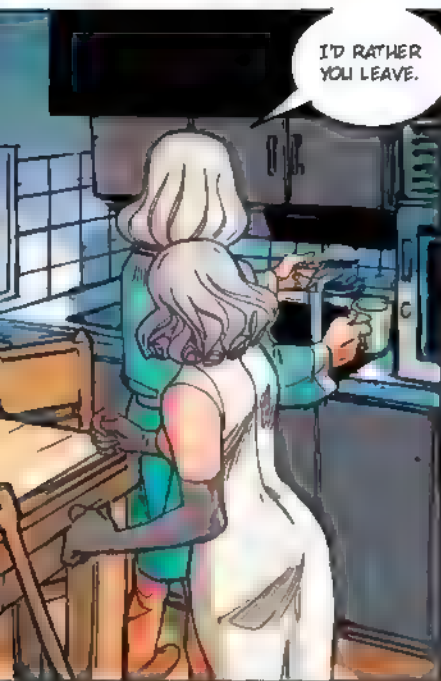




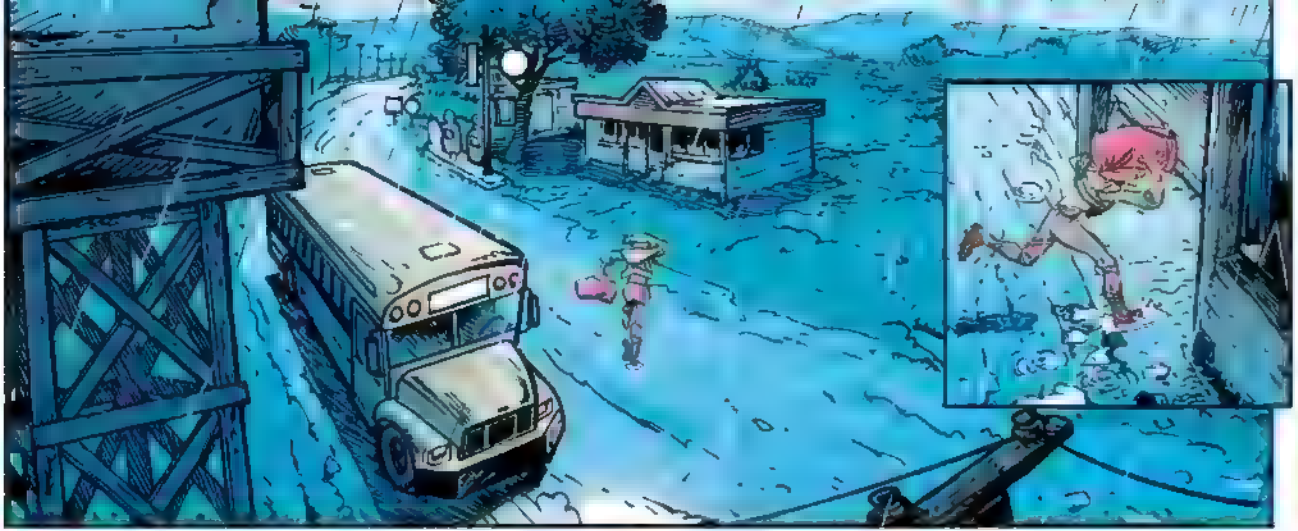
WITH THIS... DISASTER, I FELT LOST. LIKE EVERYTHING I'VE EXPERIENCED SINCE LEAVING HAS BEEN A BIG MISTAKE.







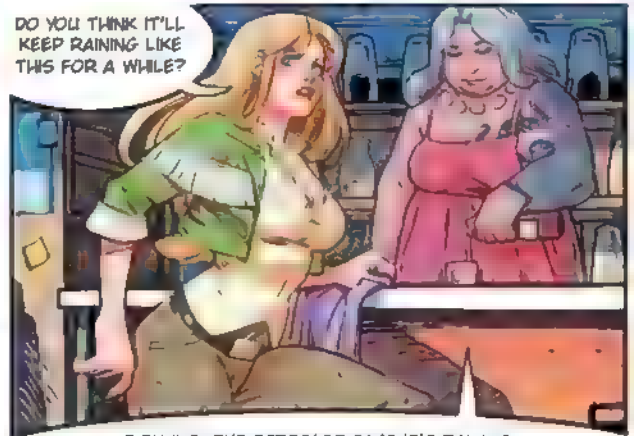
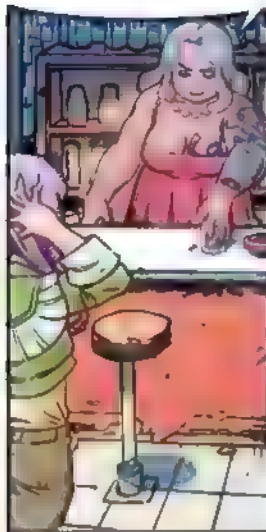




THANKS FOR THE TOWEL.

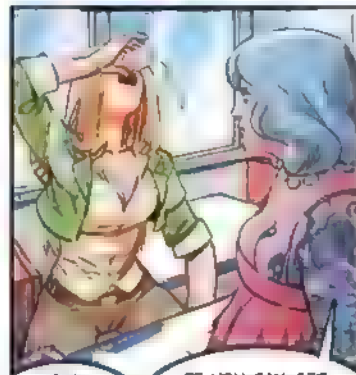


I SPOKE WITH YOUR SISTER...



DO YOU THINK IT'LL KEEP RAINING LIKE THIS FOR A WHILE?

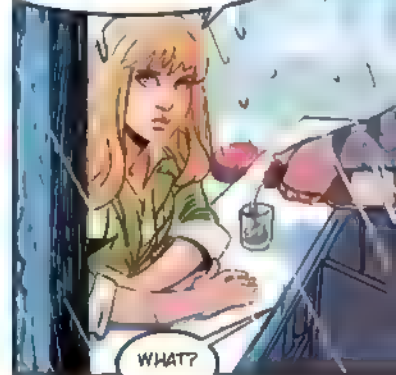
I DUNNO THE FORECAST SAYS IT'S RAINING LIKE THIS ALL AROUND THE WORLD. IT'S UNHEARD OF.



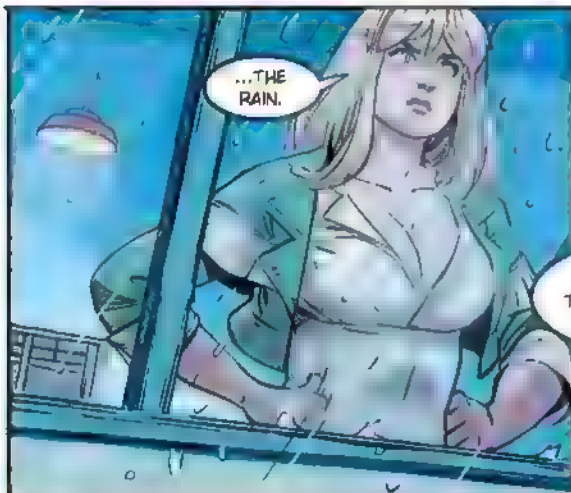
EWA SLEPT ALL DAY.

IF YOU CAN GET HER OUT OF BED, IT MIGHT DO HER GOOD.

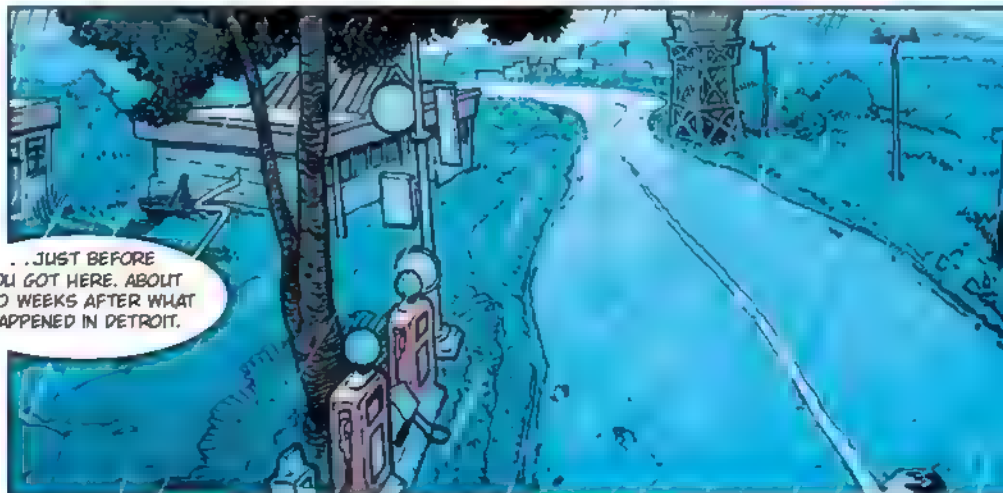
SHE NEEDS TO GET OVER HERSELF. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THIS ALL STARTED?



WHAT?



...THE RAIN.



...JUST BEFORE YOU GOT HERE. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN DETROIT.





HEY THERE.  
ARE YOU BUSY?

NOT  
AT ALL.  
COME IN.

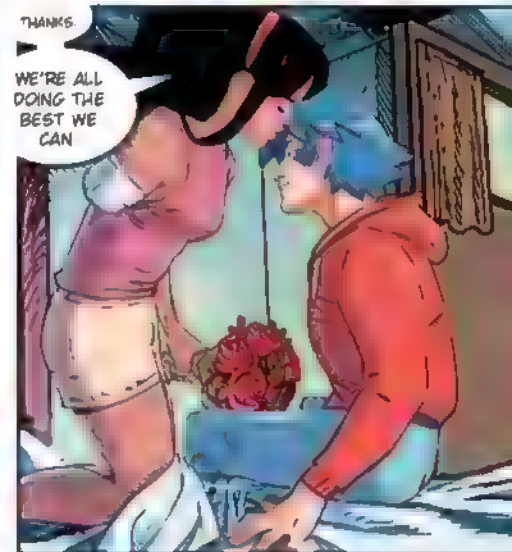


HERE, THIS IS  
TO SAY I'M SORRY.

SORRY FOR  
WHAT?



YOU'VE HAD YOUR FAIR SHARE OF  
PROBLEMS AND I WASN'T THE BEST FRIEND  
I COULD BE.



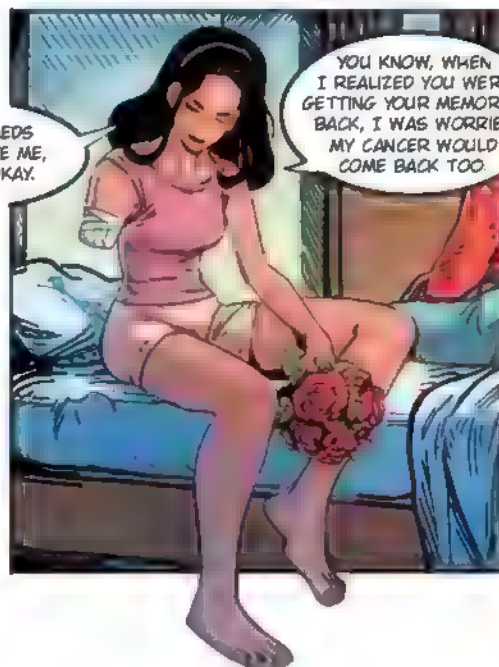
THANKS.

WE'RE ALL  
DOING THE  
BEST WE  
CAN



IT DOESN'T  
HURT TOO  
MUCH?

WITH THE MEDS  
THE DOC GAVE ME,  
I'M DOING OKAY.



YOU KNOW, WHEN  
I REALIZED YOU WERE  
GETTING YOUR MEMORIES  
BACK, I WAS WORRIED  
MY CANCER WOULD  
COME BACK TOO



...BUT, IT'S COOL!  
I JUST LOST AN ARM.



COULDN'T ASSUME IT WOULD JUST  
KEEP GROWING BACK FOREVER, COULD I?



DON'T MAKE THAT FACE! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.

THAT'S A GOOD SUMMARY.

NOTHING I CAN DO.

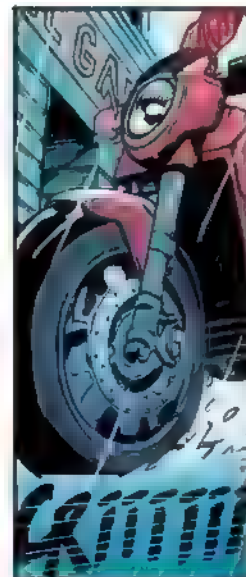
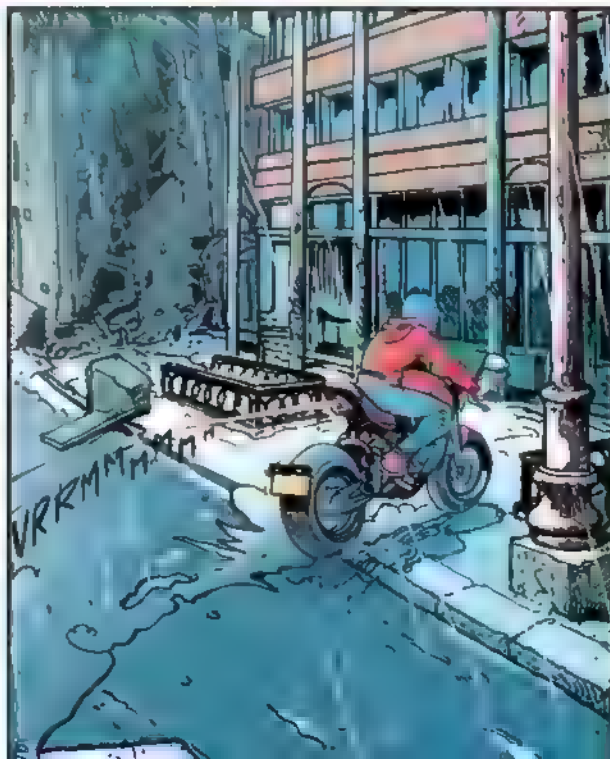
AND NOW WE'RE HANDICAPPED... OR WORSE, NORMAL. JUST STUPIDLY BANAL.

WE HAD EVERYTHING. WE COULD CHANGE THINGS. FIGHT AGAINST INJUSTICE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

THERE'S NOTHING NORMAL ABOUT YOU, ANGE! DO YOU THINK EVERYONE IN THE WORLD HAS A PERSONAL DRIVER?

OKAY, LET'S TRY THAT!

VR000M





WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?



I'M HERE TO SEE MISTER GAMBINO.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I WON'T TELL ANYONE YOU TRIED TO STOP ME.



LET THEM KNOW ANGEL TOMASSINI'S HERE.

T-TOMA ... S-SSINI?

THAT'S RIGHT.



HAAH! YOU'RE FUNNY. YOU REALLY THINK I'M GONNA LET YOU IN?



ANGEL TOMASSINI!



HELLO, MISTER GAMBINO.

YOUR FATHER TOLD ME YOU WERE DEAD...

HE THOUGHT I WAS, YEAH. BUT YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT WASN'T TRUE.

OH, WAIT, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WEREN'T AT HIS FUNERAL...



!





SORRY ABOUT THAT. MY HEALTH DIDN'T PERMIT ME TO PAY HIM MY LAST RESPECTS.

NO BIG DEAL...



...WHAT MATTERS IS THAT I'M HERE NOW

I'M HERE TO SET MY FAMILY'S AFFAIRS IN ORDER.

OH! IS THAT RIGHT? YOUNG MAN, WHY WOULD I LET YOU DO SUCH A THING? AFTER ALL, THE TOMASSINI FAMILY NO LONGER EXISTS.



LET ME ANSWER THAT WITH A QUESTION.

WHAT WOULD MY FATHER HAVE DONE TO A MAN WHO FAILED TO RESPECT HIM THE SAME WAY YOU'VE JUST FAILED TO RESPECT ME?



HE WOULD'VE KILLED HIM, NO DOUBT!

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL BE ANY MORE MERCIFUL?



THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ALL ALONE AND THAT YOU'RE LITTLE ANGEL TOMASSINI!

THE KID SO FRAGILE EVEN HIS DAD WAS ASHAMED OF HIM!



TSSSK... YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, TIMES CHANGE...



HEY! DON'T DISRESPECT MISTER GAMBINO!



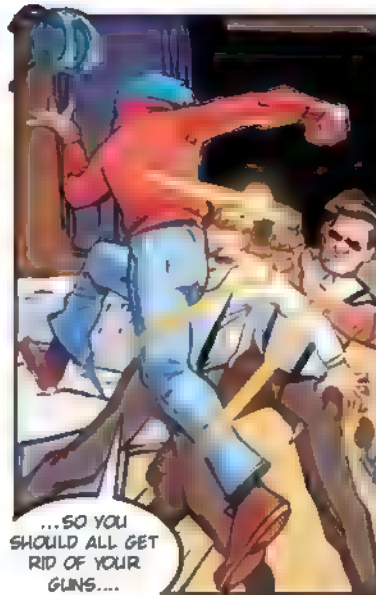


I MAY NOT HAVE MY POWERS,  
BUT I STILL HAVE MY AGILITY  
AND MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH.

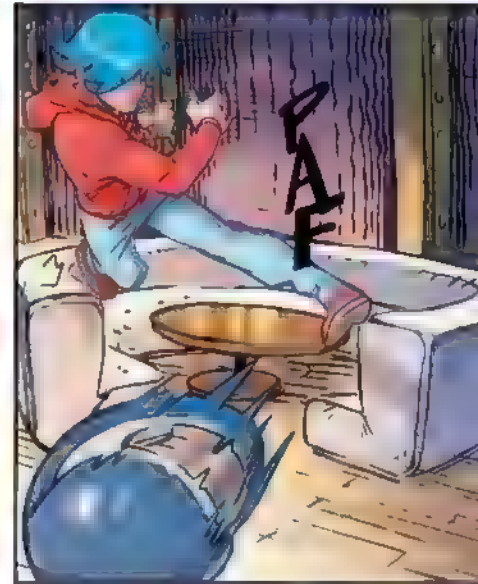
FOR THESE GUYS,  
THAT'LL BE  
PLENTY.



I DON'T WANT  
TO GET ANY  
BLOOD ON THE  
CARPET...



...SO YOU  
SHOULD ALL GET  
RID OF YOUR  
GUNS....



PAF



PONK



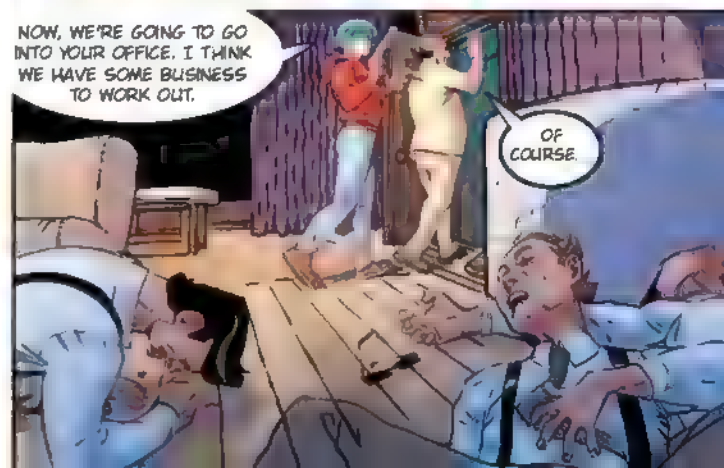
CHOP!



WE GOOD?  
DONE PLAYING  
GAMES?



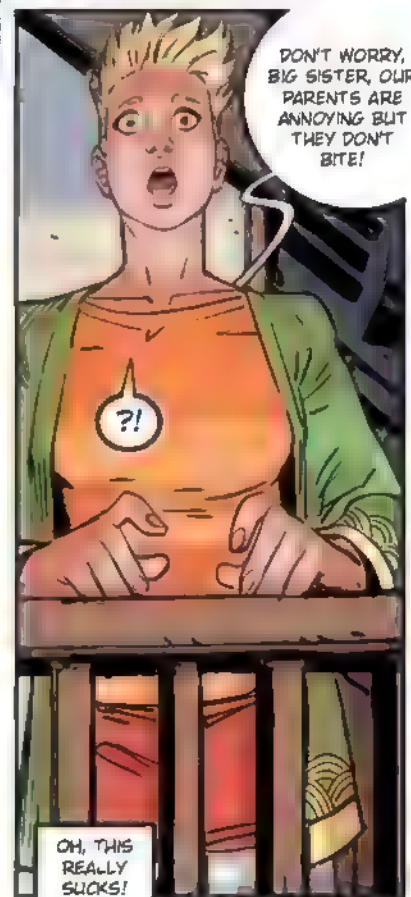
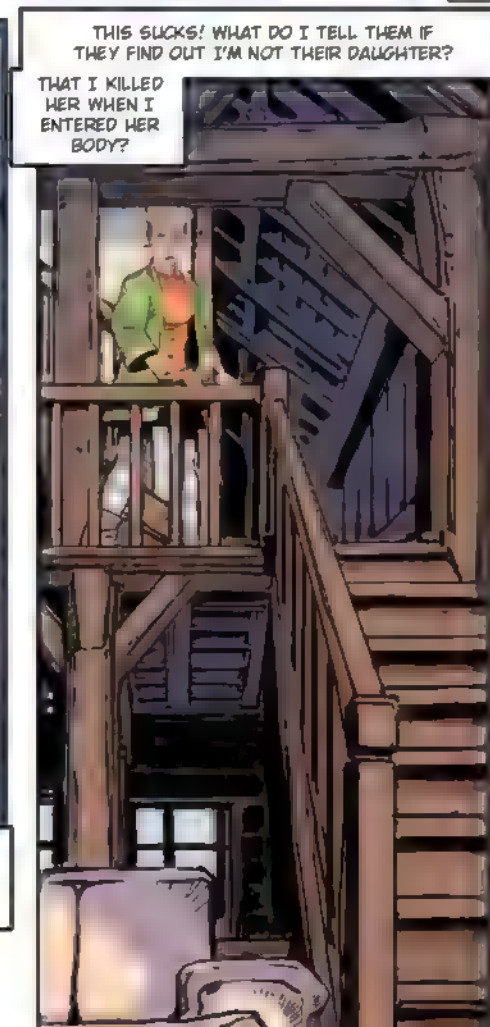
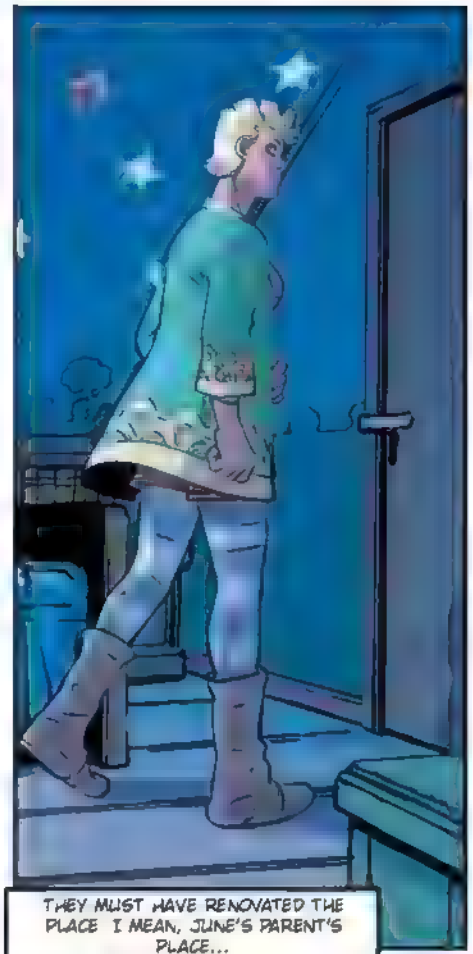
YES...  
I...



NOW, WE'RE GOING TO GO  
INTO YOUR OFFICE. I THINK  
WE HAVE SOME BUSINESS  
TO WORK OUT.

OF  
COURSE







HEY, GRASSHOPPER!  
YOU REALLY SCARED  
ME, YOU KNOW  
THAT?!

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE  
TO EXPLAIN HOW IT'S  
POSSIBLE TO GET  
ATTACKED BY A WILD  
ANIMAL ON A TRAIN!

A... LITTLE LATER, IF THAT'S ALRIGHT.  
I'VE GOT A LITTLE BIT OF A PROBLEM... I'M  
MISSING A LOT OF MEMORIES AND I DON'T  
EVEN REMEMBER YOUR NAME.

WE HAVE THE  
SAME PARENTS.

IF THAT'S ALL,  
THEN NO BIG DEAL.  
THE DOCTORS WARNED  
US THAT COULD  
HAPPEN TO YOU!

MY NAME'S  
ETIENNE...

I GAVE YOU  
THE NICKNAME  
"GRASSHOPPER" AND  
YOU CHOSE "TOAD"  
FOR ME

SO, DOES THAT  
MEAN YOU DON'T  
REMEMBER THE  
NASTY PRANKS I  
USED TO PLAY  
ON YOU.. ?

DON'T BE AFRAID,  
COME IN...

WE'RE JUST  
HERE FOR JUNE.

NO FUNNY  
MOVES.

LIKE YOU  
HAVE MUCH OF  
A CHOICE.

OH, RIGHT, I  
FORGOT. OUR  
BOSS EXPLICITLY  
ASKED US TO...

GRASSHOPPER





HEY,  
TOAD, YOU  
OKAY?

ARE YOU  
HURT?

I... DON'T  
THINK SO.

PARENTS? ARE YOU  
OKAY?

YES, HONEY,  
NO INJURIES  
HERE.

WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE MY POWERS HAVE ABANDONED ME...?

JUNE, WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?

I... DON'T  
KNOW...

?!

HIM, I REMEMBER. I DON'T KNOW  
HOW, BUT I KNOW WHO HE IS.

WHETHER IT'S GOOD NEWS TO SEE HIM  
HERE OR NOT, THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER  
ENTIRELY ..

HEY, JUNE!  
I CAME AS SOON  
AS I COULD!

THEN AGAIN, HE DID JUST  
SAVE MY "NEW FAMILY"... SO,  
I'M NOT GOING TO BE PICKY.

DAD, CALL THE POLICE AS SOON AS I'M GONE.  
DON'T KEEP ANYTHING FROM THEM...

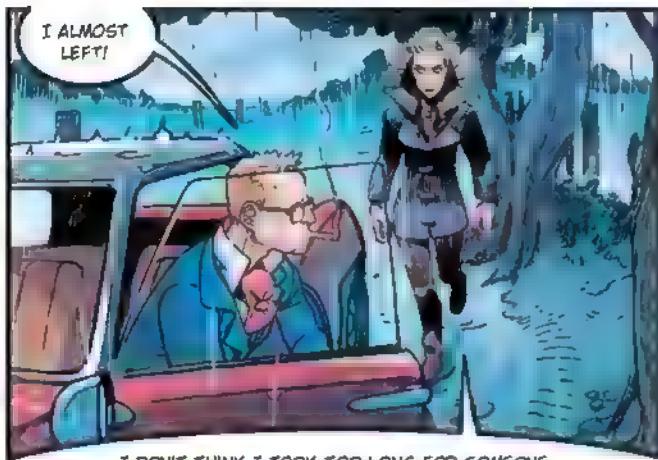
WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
WHERE ARE YOU  
GOING?

I CAN'T  
SAY ANYTHING  
RIGHT NOW...

BUT I CAN'T STAY, EITHER.  
IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS  
FOR YOU.

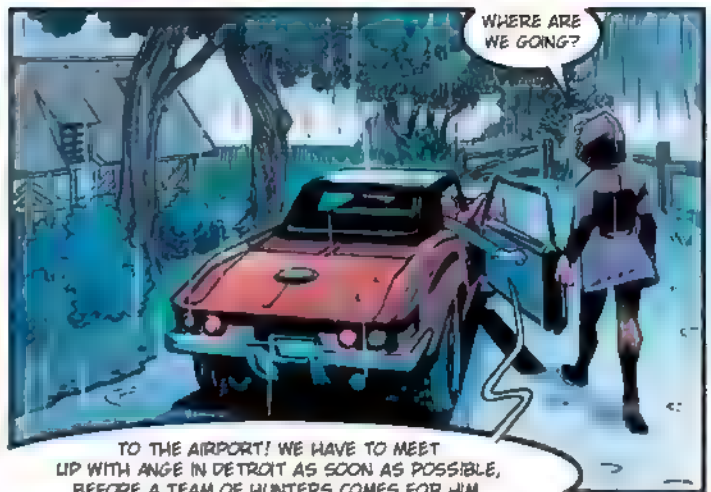
I... LOVE  
YOU.





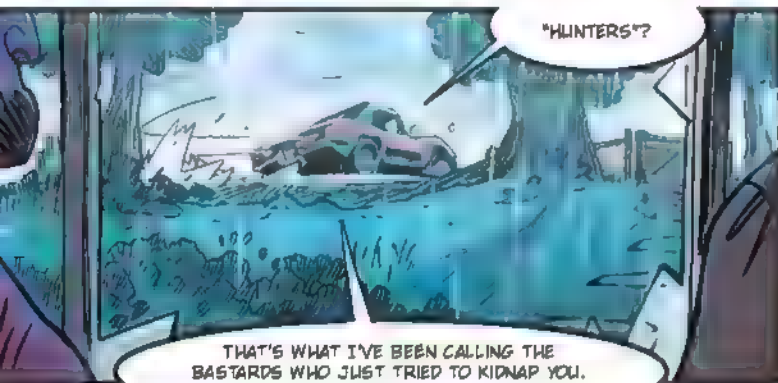
I ALMOST LEFT!

I DON'T THINK I TOOK TOO LONG FOR SOMEONE LEAVING THEIR FAMILY WITH FOUR DEAD BODIES IN THE KITCHEN.



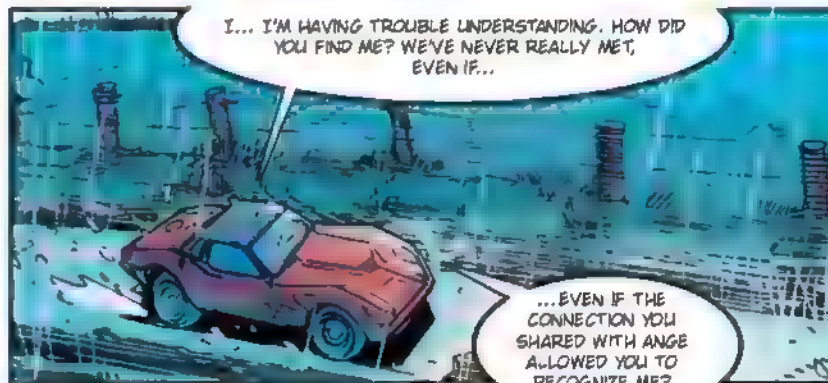
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO THE AIRPORT! WE HAVE TO MEET UP WITH ANGE IN DETROIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BEFORE A TEAM OF HUNTERS COMES FOR HIM.



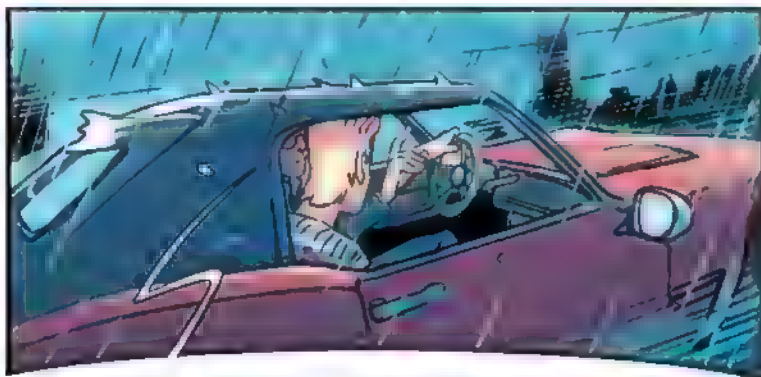
"HUNTERS"?

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN CALLING THE BASTARDS WHO JUST TRIED TO KIDNAP YOU.

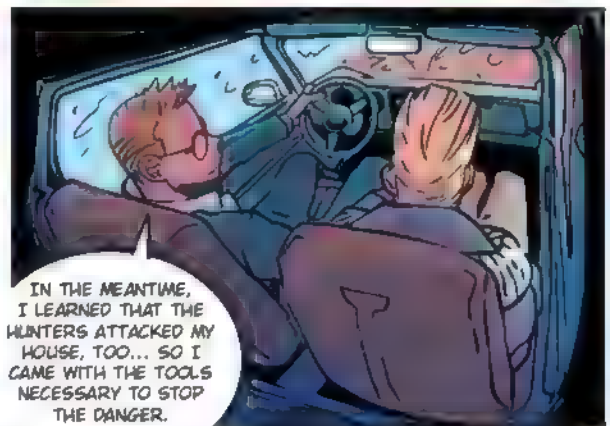


I... I'M HAVING TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING. HOW DID YOU FIND ME? WE'VE NEVER REALLY MET, EVEN IF...

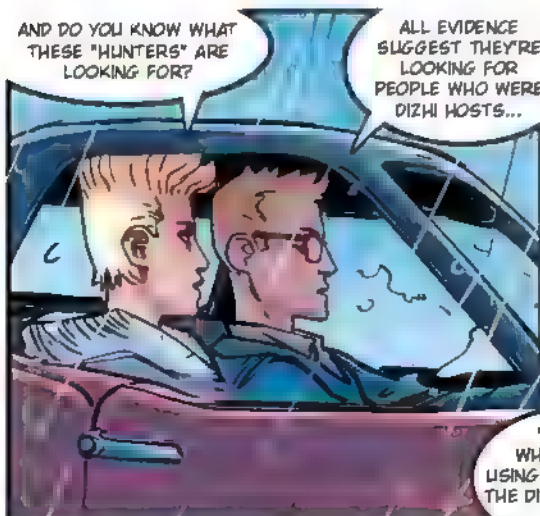
...EVEN IF THE CONNECTION YOU SHARED WITH ANGE ALLOWED YOU TO RECOGNIZE ME?



ACTUALLY, I WAS GOING TO DETROIT TO FIND ANGE WHEN I READ AN ARTICLE ONLINE ABOUT YOUR "ACCIDENT". SO I DECIDED TO TAKE A LITTLE DETOUR.



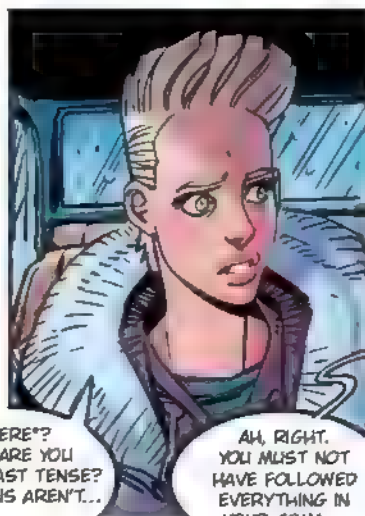
IN THE MEANTIME, I LEARNED THAT THE HUNTERS ATTACKED MY HOUSE, TOO... SO I CAME WITH THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO STOP THE DANGER.



AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE "HUNTERS" ARE LOOKING FOR?

ALL EVIDENCE SUGGEST THEY'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE DIZHI HOSTS...

"WERE"? WHY ARE YOU USING PAST TENSE? THE DIZHIS AREN'T...



AH, RIGHT. YOU MUST NOT HAVE FOLLOWED EVERYTHING IN YOUR COMA...



THE DIZHIS ARE DONE. NOBODY HAS ANY POWERS ANYMORE.





I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD THAT I'M BACK.

OF COURSE.



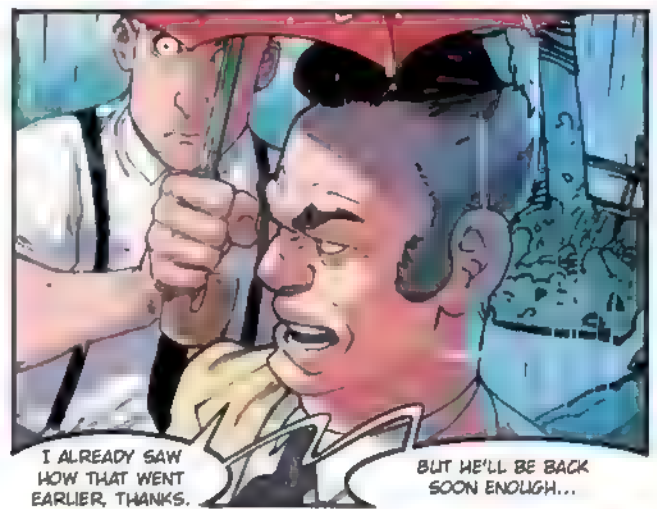
AND IF YOU NEED ANY LIQUIDITY, DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT.

WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN ME SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR NOW, THANKS.



WELL, PAUL, WE ARE IN QUITE THE BIND.

IF YOU WANT, SIR, WE CAN GET A FEW GUYS TOGETHER AND AMBUSH HIM...



I ALREADY SAW HOW THAT WENT EARLIER, THANKS.

BUT WE'LL BE BACK SOON ENOUGH...

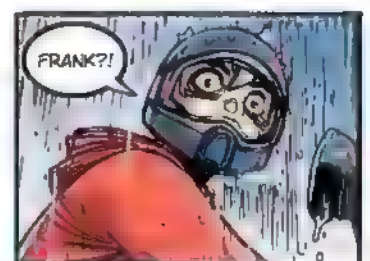


...WHICH LEAVES ME PLENTY OF TIME TO GET ORGANIZED. AND THEN I'LL GIVE HIM A TASTE OF HUMILIATION...



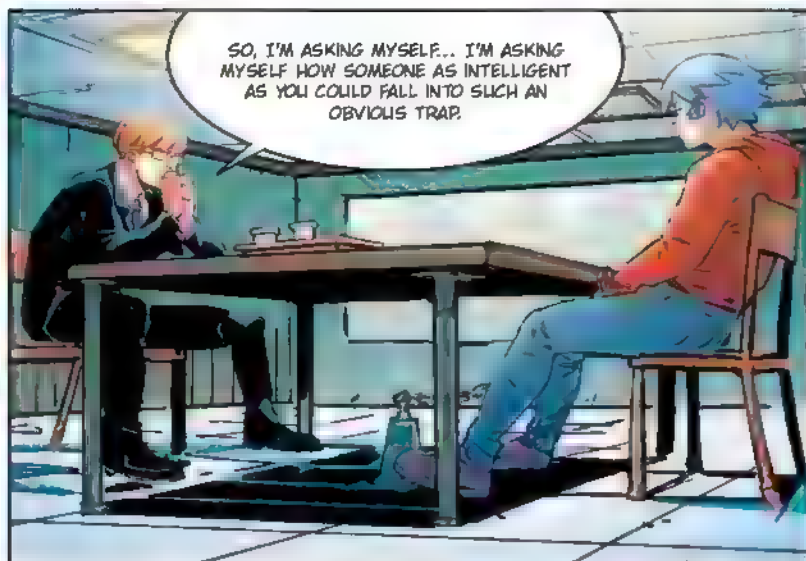
HELLO, ANGE!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST. PLEASE DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE.



FRANK?!





SO, I'M ASKING MYSELF... I'M ASKING MYSELF HOW SOMEONE AS INTELLIGENT AS YOU COULD FALL INTO SUCH AN OBVIOUS TRAP.



FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS, EVER SINCE WE FOUND OUT YOU WERE IN DETROIT, WE'VE BEEN WATCHING ALL THE BUSINESSES THAT SERVE AS FRONTS FOR THE TOMASSINI FAMILY.

I EVEN MADE A BET THAT WE'D NEVER CATCH YOU WITH SUCH AN OBVIOUS METHOD.

AND YOU GO AND GET YOURSELF CAUGHT LIKE SOME COMMON CRIMINAL.

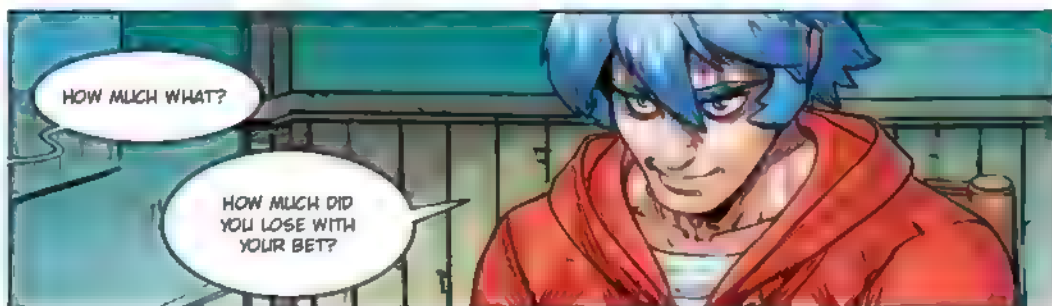


WITH A BAG FULL OF DIRTY BILLS... ALL THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN WANTED ACROSS THE COUNTRY SINCE YOUR KIDNAPPING AT FATHER'S FUNERAL...



NOTHING TO SAY?

HOW MUCH?

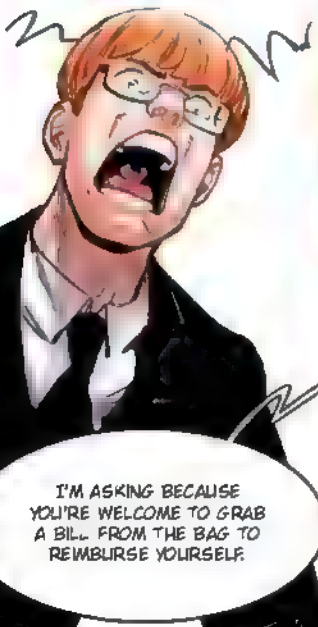


HOW MUCH WHAT?

HOW MUCH DID YOU LOSE WITH YOUR BET?

**WHO GIVES A SHIT!**

THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT THAN...



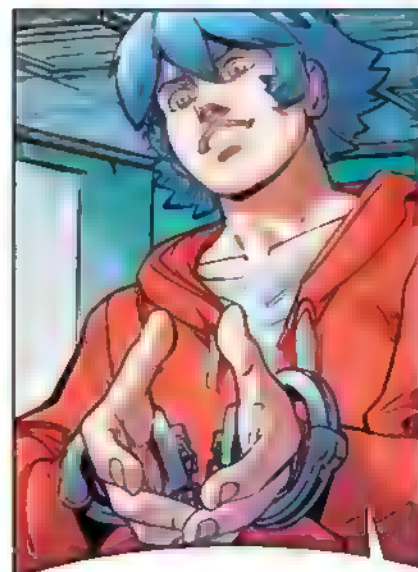
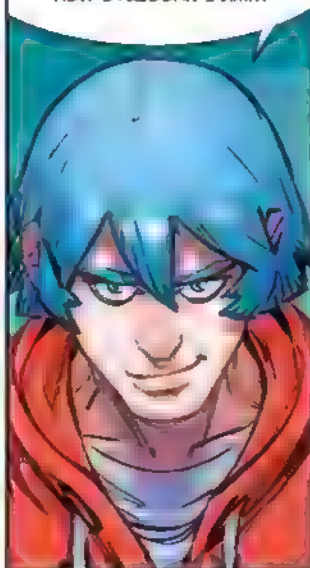
I'M ASKING BECAUSE YOU'RE WELCOME TO GRAB A BILL FROM THE BAG TO REIMBURSE YOURSELF.

ARE YOU MOCKING ME?



FRANK...

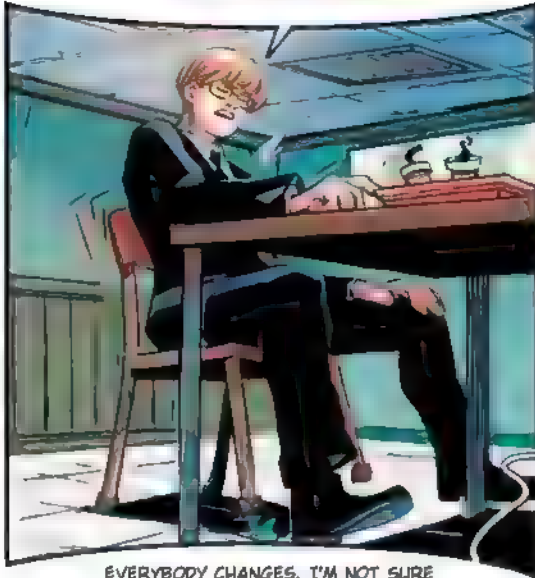
YOU'RE MY FRIEND. WELL, YOU WERE MY OLDEST FRIEND. SO YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER HOW STUBBORN I AM...



IF YOU WANT TO CHARGE ME WITH SOMETHING, TELL ME SO I CAN CALL A LAWYER. OTHERWISE GIVE ME MY BAG BACK AND LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.



YOU'VE CHANGED, ANGE. AND I DON'T  
LIKE WHO YOU'VE BECOME.

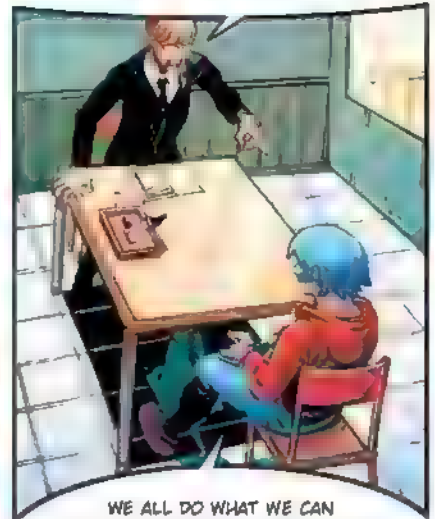


EVERYBODY CHANGES. I'M NOT SURE  
I LIKE WHO I'VE BECOME EITHER...



...BUT I'M DOING MY BEST...  
AND I NEVER BETRAYED YOU.

HOLD ON... ARE YOU SAYING THAT  
I BETRAYED YOU?



WE ALL DO WHAT WE CAN  
WITH THE HAND WE'RE DEALT. NEITHER  
OF US DEALT THEM OUT TO BEGIN WITH.

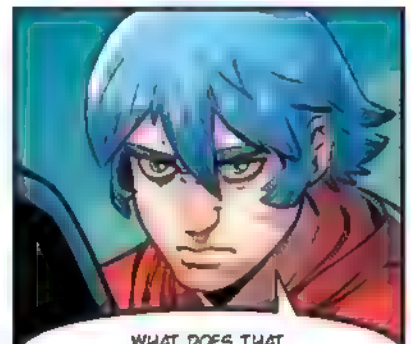
YOU'RE  
A REAL  
ASSHOLE.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH  
THE MAFIA? WHY DID THEY GIVE  
YOU SO MUCH MONEY?

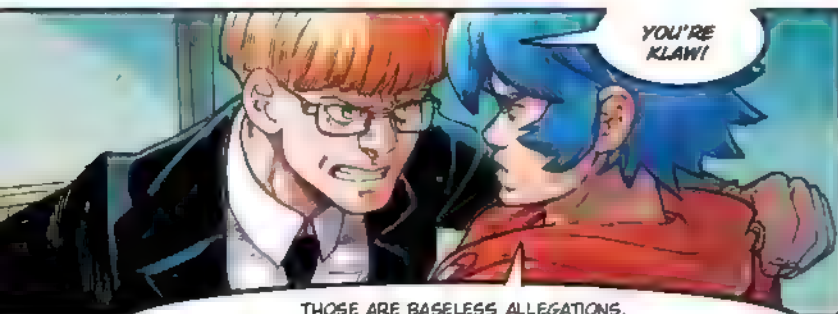


OKAY. SHOULD WE TALK  
ABOUT THE VIDEO OF KLAU FIGHTING  
IN THE STREETS INSTEAD?



WHAT DOES THAT  
HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

YOU'RE  
KLAU!



THOSE ARE BASELESS ALLEGATIONS.  
THERE'S NO VERIFIABLE EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THAT.

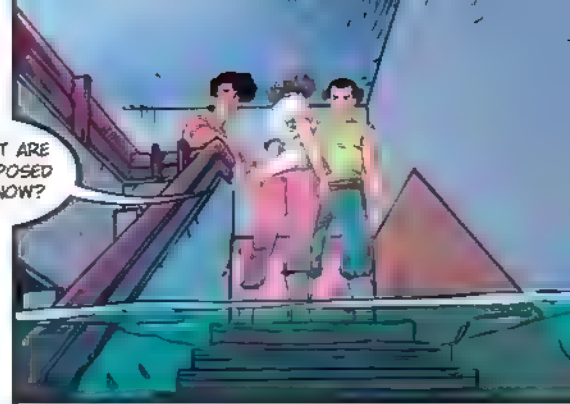


OKAY, THEN WHAT IF WE TALK ABOUT LISA?  
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS NOW? OR ARE YOU SO  
EGOTISTICAL THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE'S DISAPPEARED?





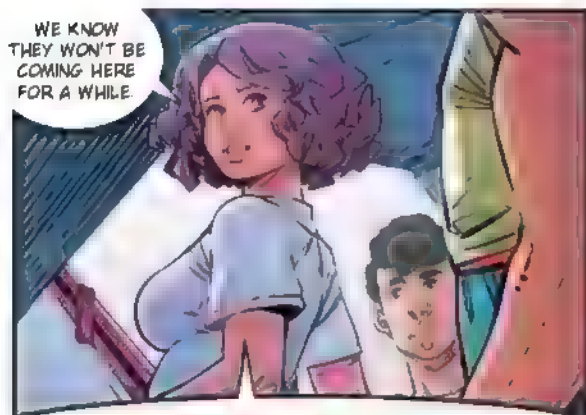
SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?



WELL, THERE'S NO CHANCE WE'LL GET ANY HELP. EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO COME GET US, I DON'T SEE HOW THEY'D MANAGE IT.



THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THEM THE SLIP.



WE KNOW THEY WON'T BE COMING HERE FOR A WHILE.

AND THE MINEFIELD THAT WAS THE PARKING LOT IS NOW COVERED IN WATER.



ARE YOU CRAZY? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TRY SWIMMING THROUGH ALL THAT?

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU'LL LAST?



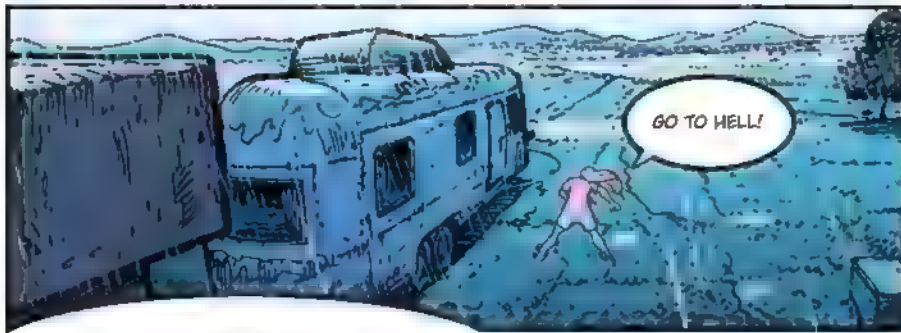
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A DUMB IDEA AT ALL. WE CAN PROBABLY FIND SOMETHING THAT FLOATS ONCE WE'RE OUTSIDE.

IN THE END, WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOSE? WE'VE ALREADY LOST OUR FREEDOM AND OUR POWERS...

YEAH... BUT WE JUST GOT OUR HUMAN APPEARANCE BACK...

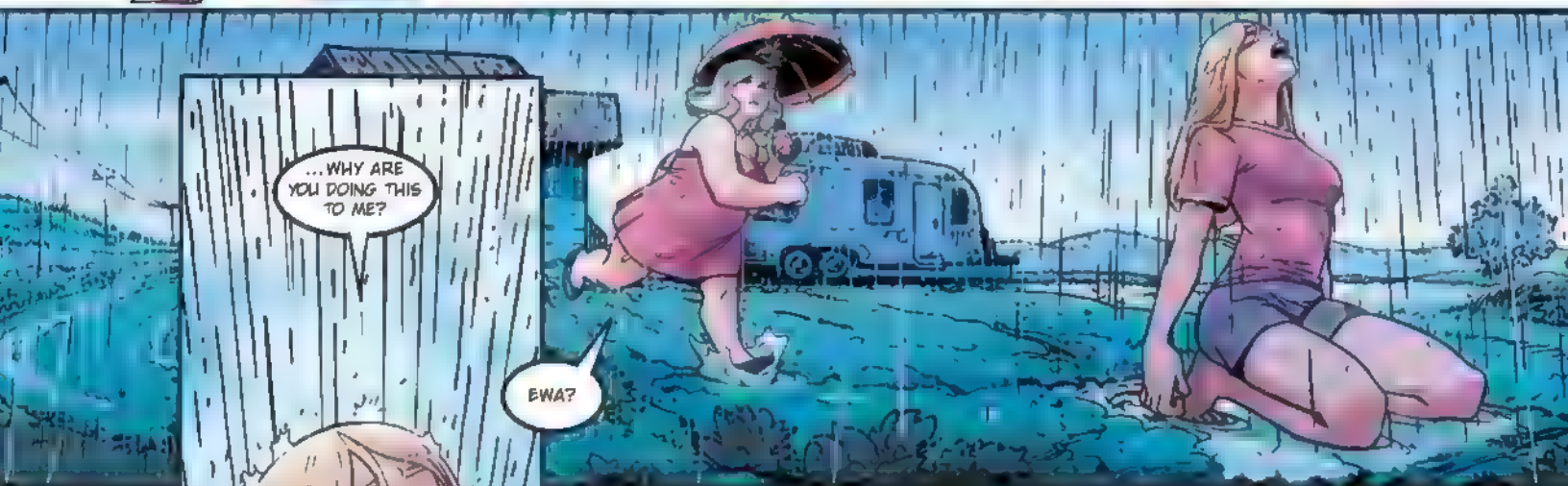
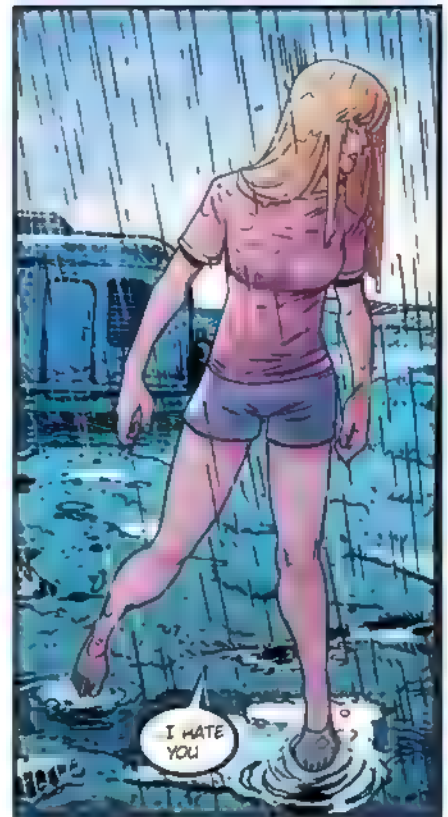
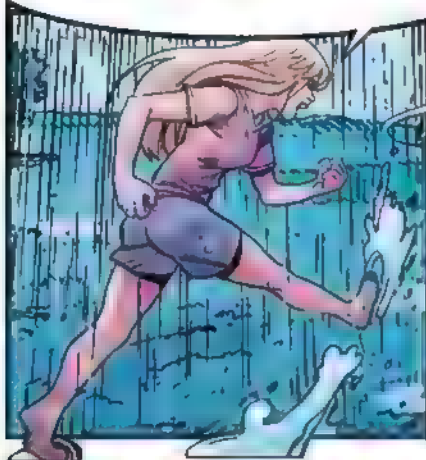




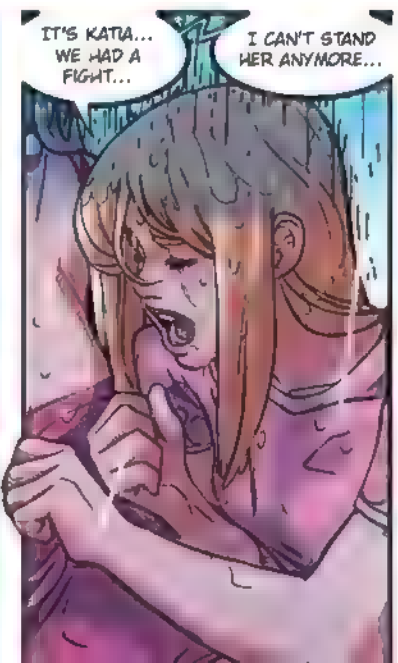


IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME  
THING WITH YOU...

IT HAS TO BE YOUR NAME ON THE COVER!  
YOU HAVE TO BE MORE LOVED THAN ME!

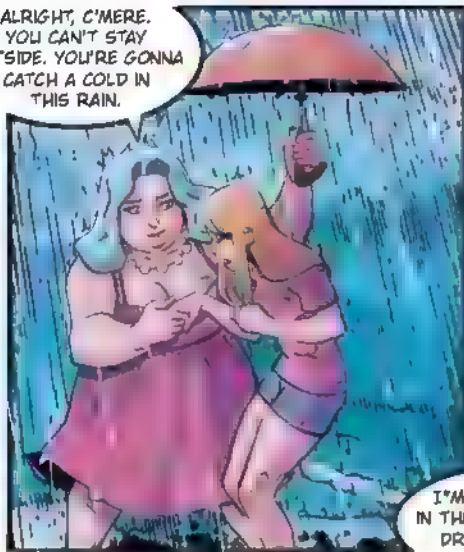


EWA?

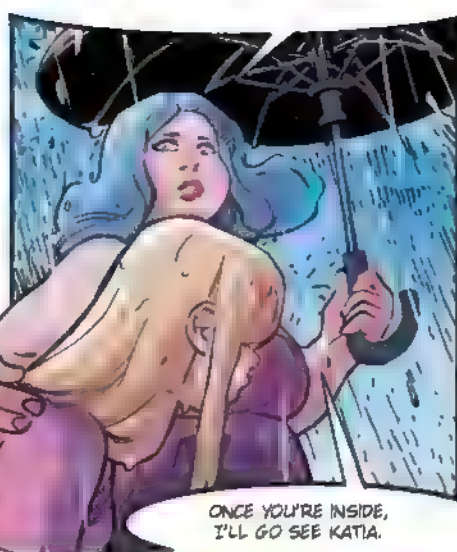
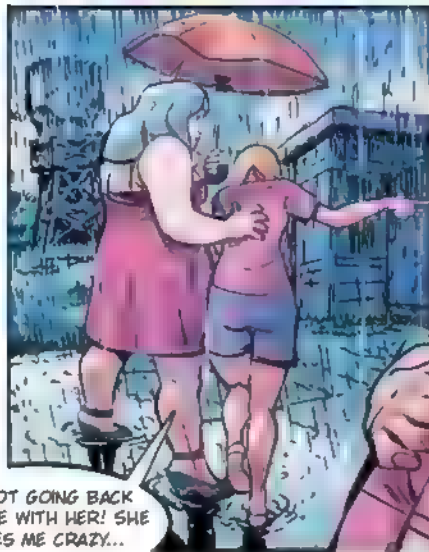




ALRIGHT, C'MERE.  
YOU CAN'T STAY  
OUTSIDE. YOU'RE GONNA  
CATCH A COLD IN  
THIS RAIN.



I'M NOT GOING BACK  
IN THERE WITH HER! SHE  
DRIVES ME CRAZY...

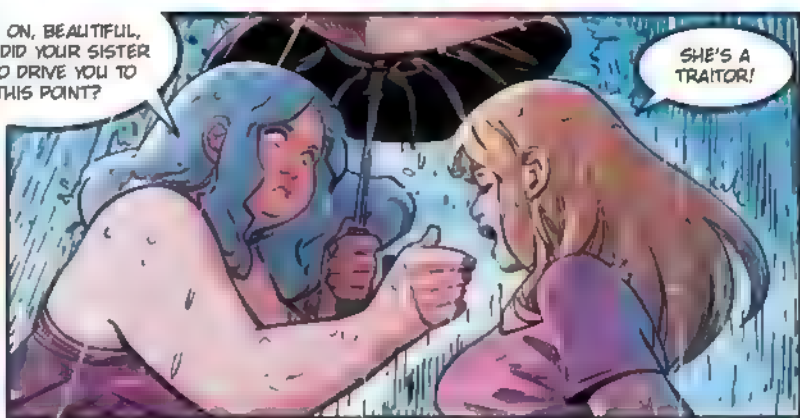


ONCE YOU'RE INSIDE,  
I'LL GO SEE KATIA.

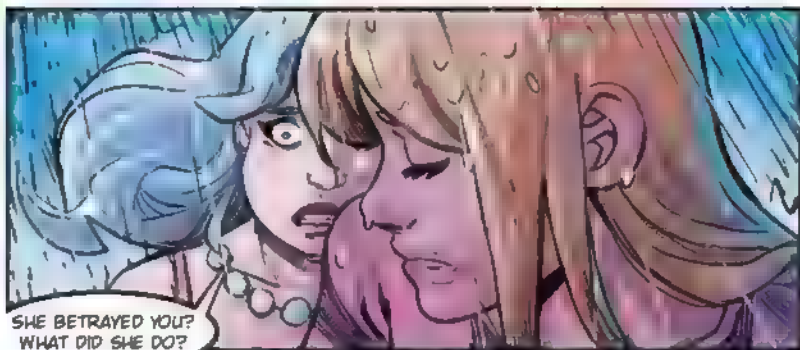


NO! YOU'RE  
NOT ALLOWED  
TO SEE HER!

COME ON, BEAUTIFUL,  
WHAT DID YOUR SISTER  
DO TO DRIVE YOU TO  
THIS POINT?



SHE'S A  
TRAITOR!



SHE BETRAYED YOU?  
WHAT DID SHE DO?

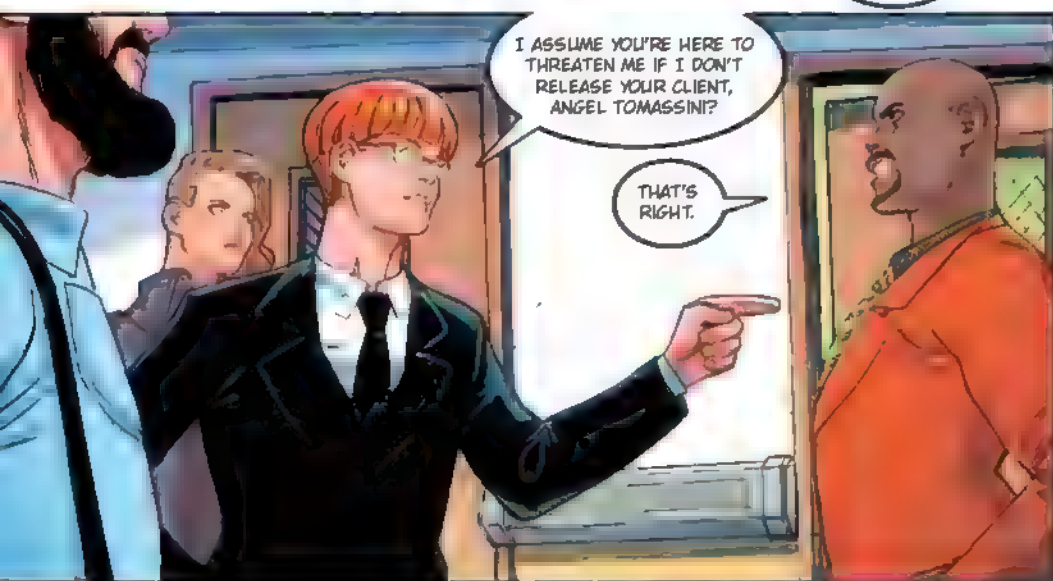
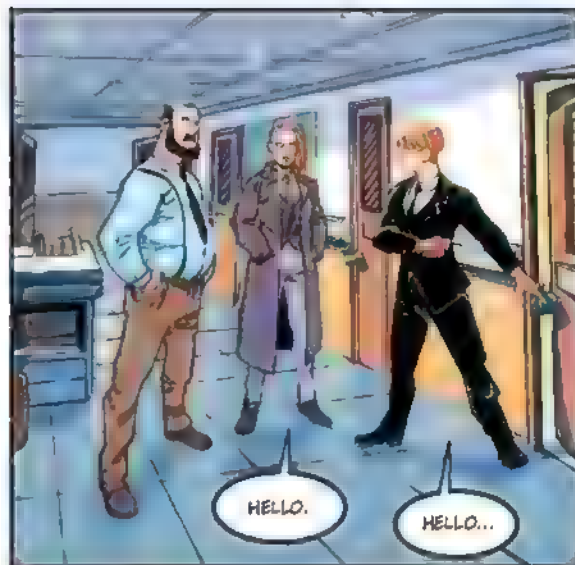


IS THIS BECAUSE  
OF YOUR BOYFRIEND?  
OR SOMETHING THAT  
HAPPENED IN  
DETROIT?

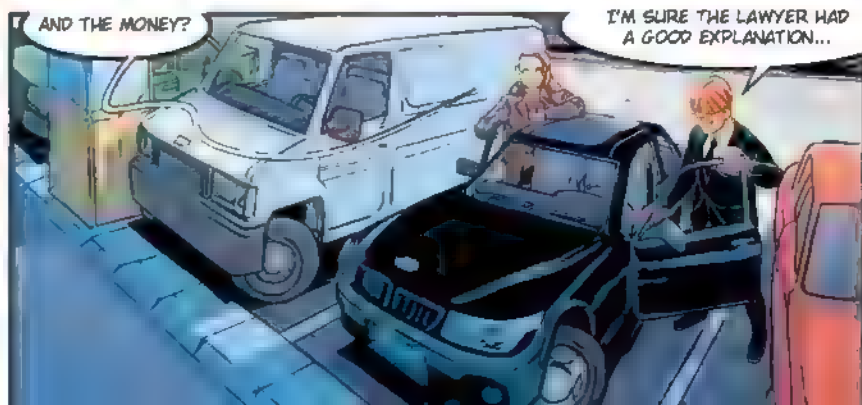
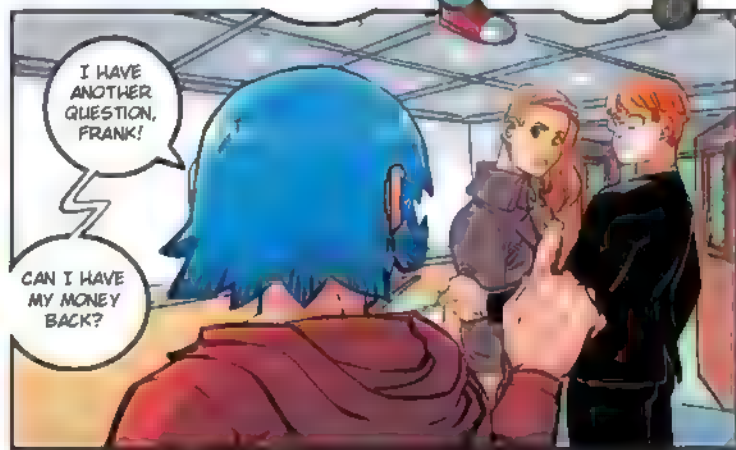
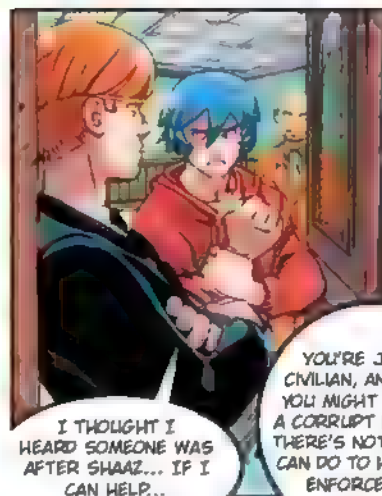
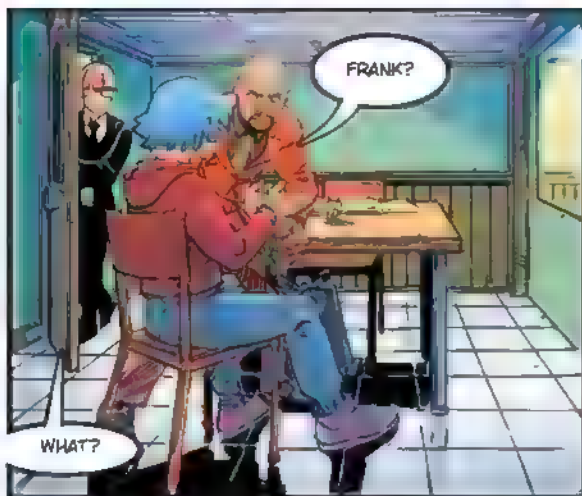
I... I DON'T WANT  
TO TALK ABOUT IT. I  
CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT.

OKAY, FINE. LET'S DRY OFF.  
WE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT  
LATER.





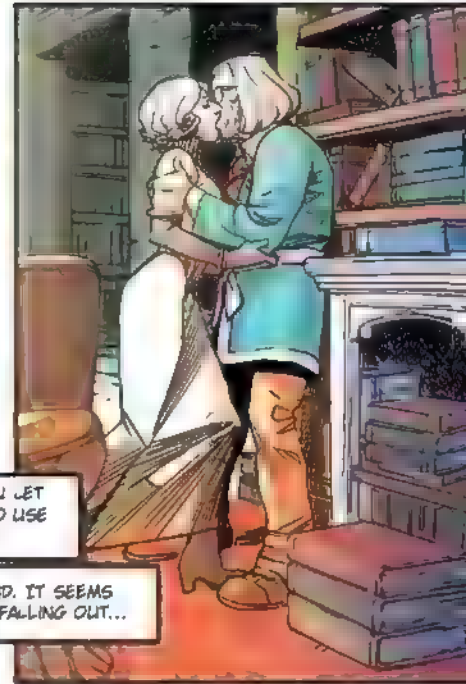








AND THE ONLY THING I KNOW ABOUT SHAAZ IS THAT IF HE'S HERE, HE WANTS TO FIND ANGE.



SO, BASICALLY, YOU LET YOUR FRIEND GO TO USE HIM AS BAIT?

EX-FRIEND. IT SEEMS WE HAD A FALLING OUT...



ANDRE, I MISSED YOU SO MUCH...

THAT NAME... NOBODY CALLS ME THAT ANYMORE.



LEAVING ME ALREADY?

I LOVE YOU, LINE... I ALWAYS LOVED YOU.



BUT I'M NOT SO NAIVE ANYMORE. I KNOW YOU'LL LEAVE AGAIN.



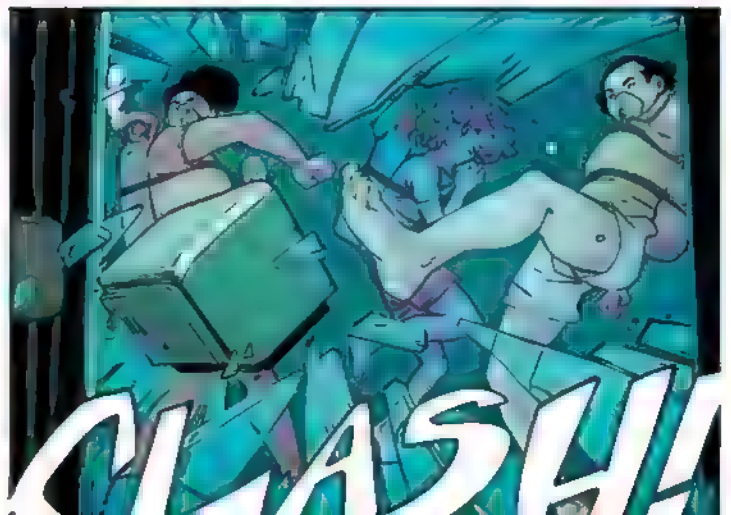
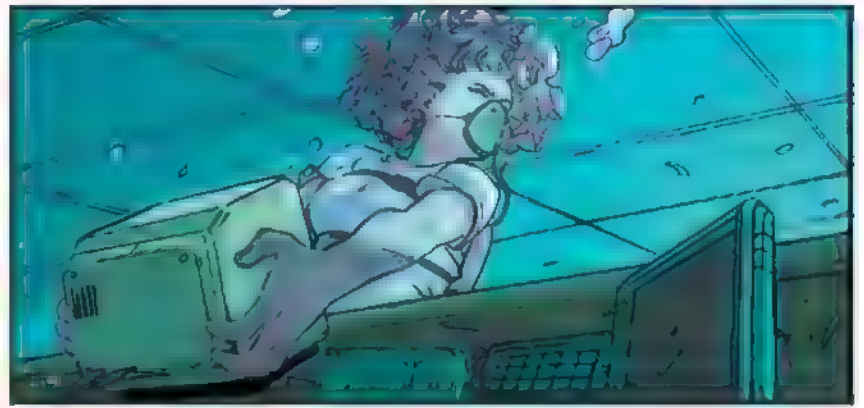
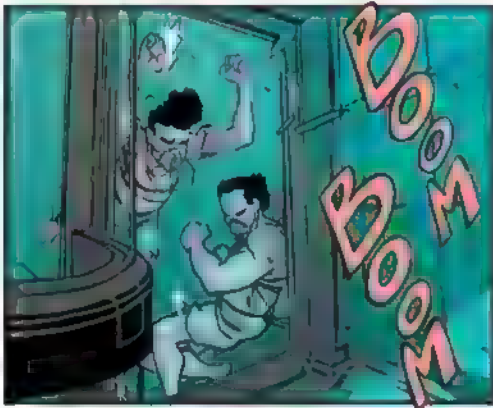
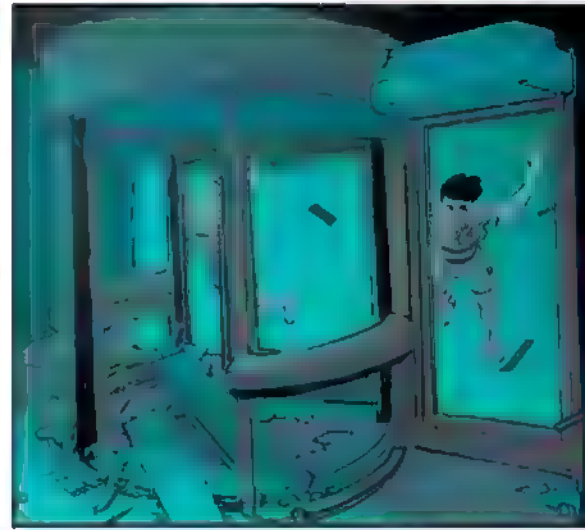
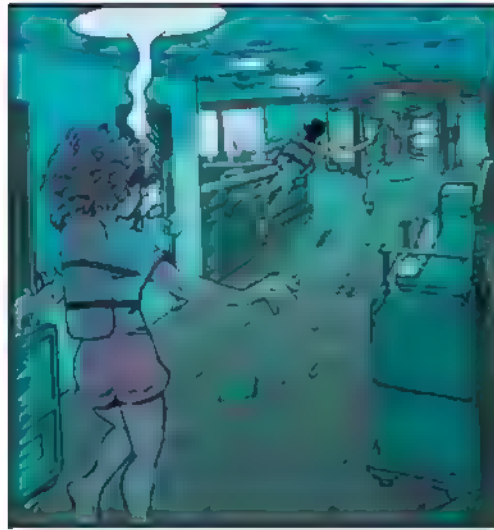
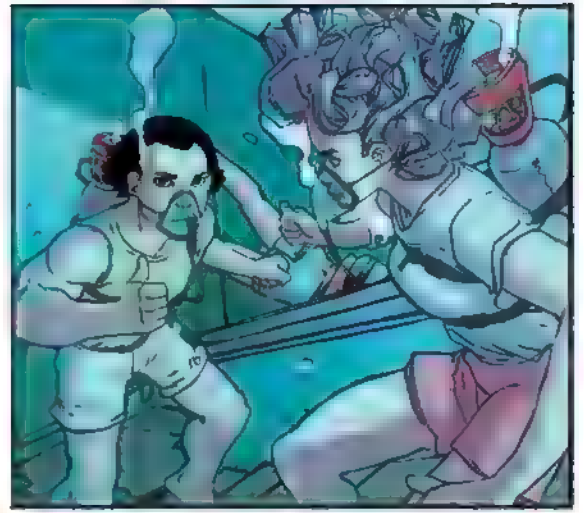
AND I'LL CONTINUE TO BE ALONE WITH MY SUFFERING.



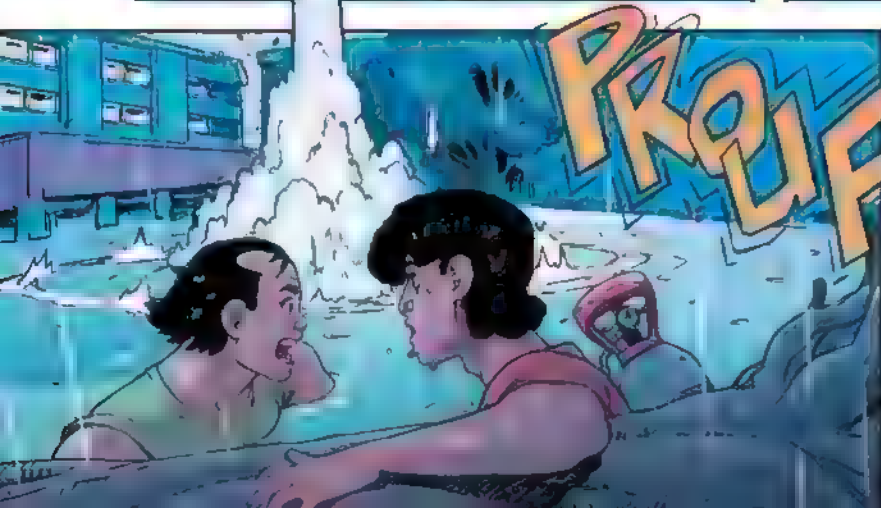
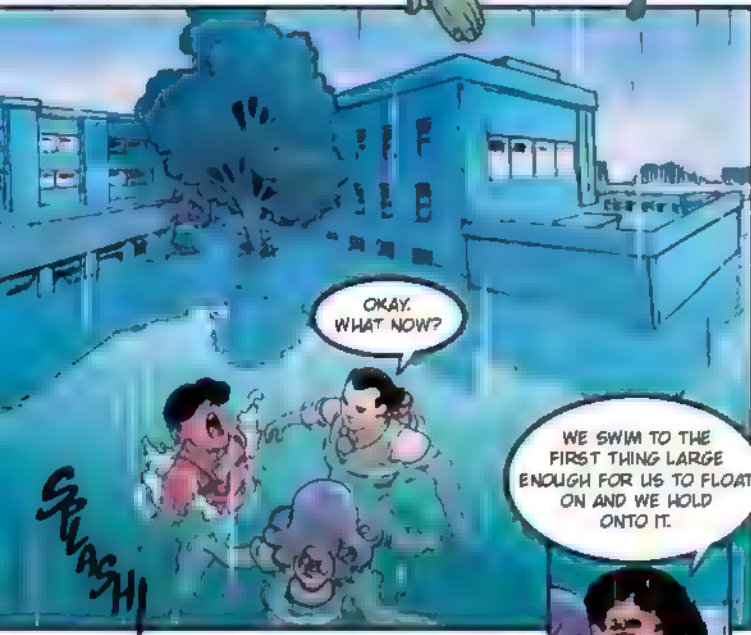
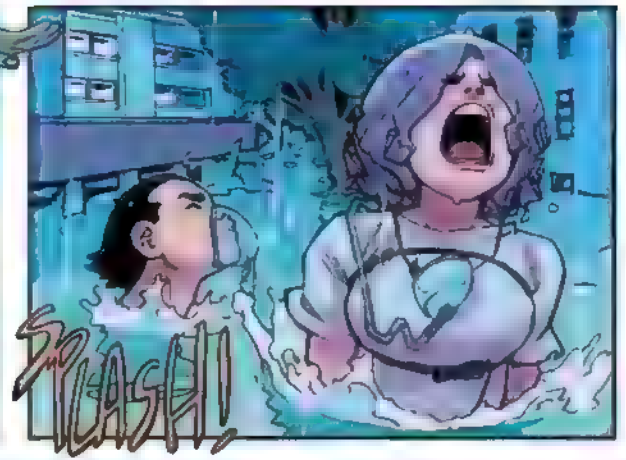
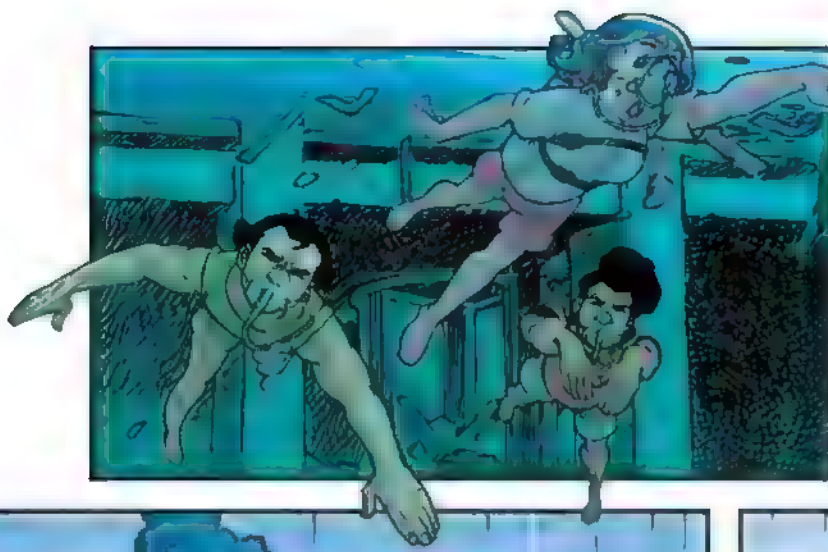
THINGS CAN CHANGE.

THINGS CAN, YES. BUT YOU, MY DEAR... I DOUBT IT.

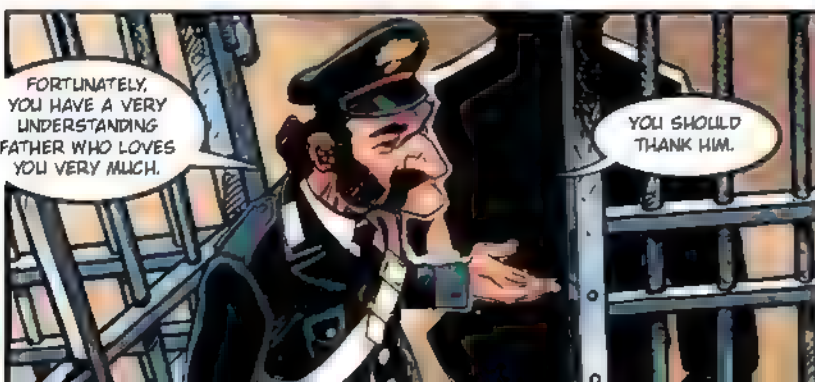
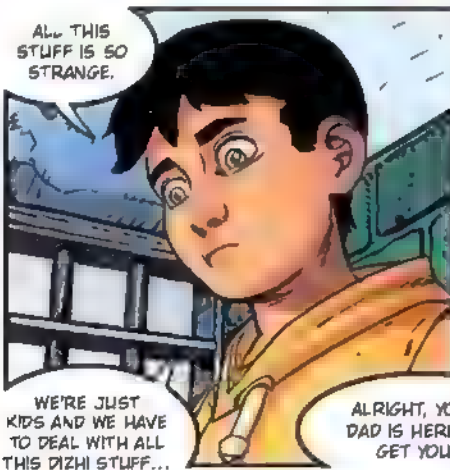
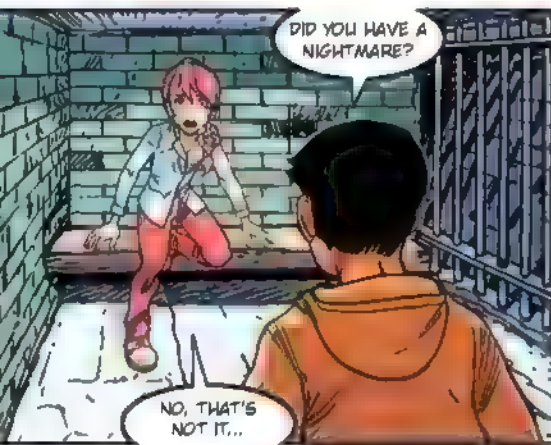
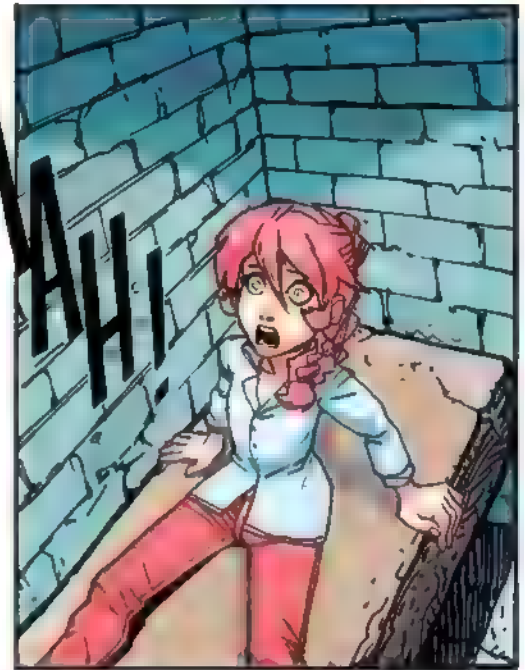
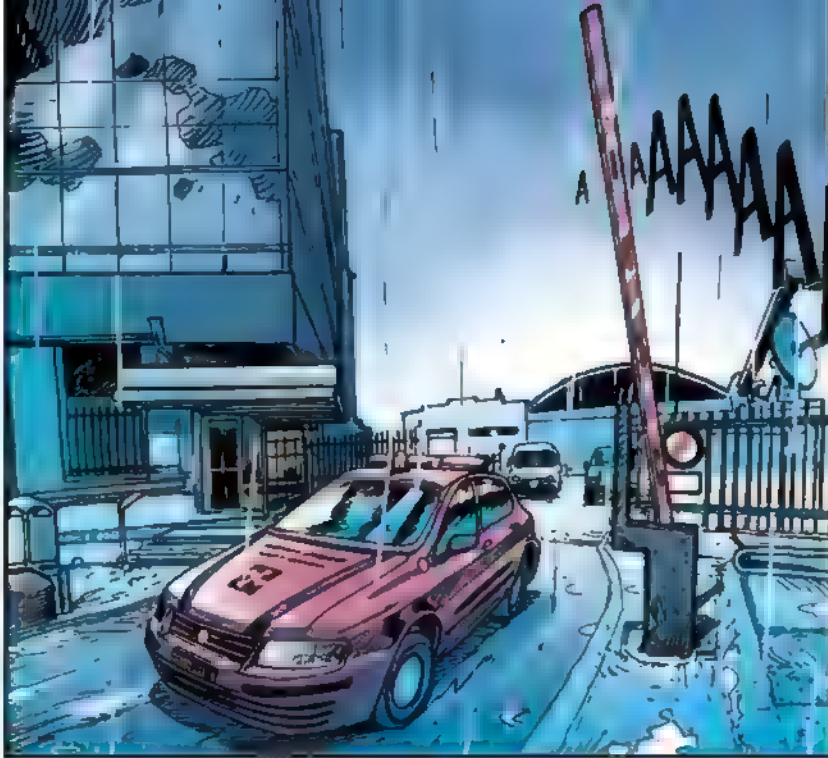




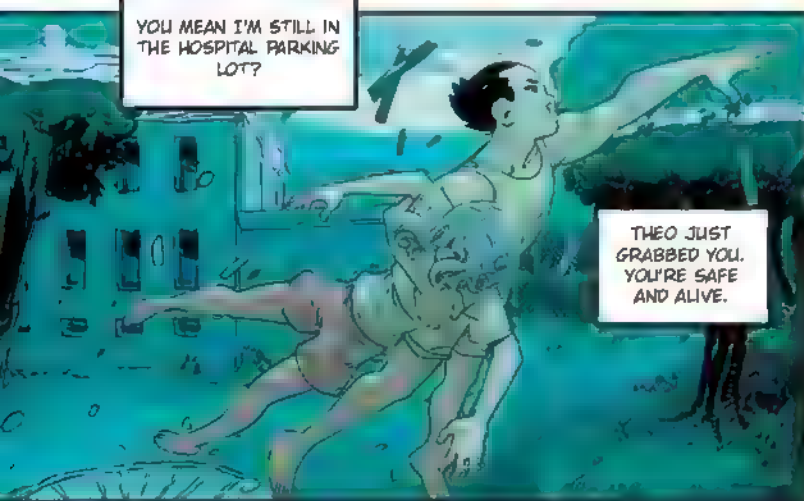
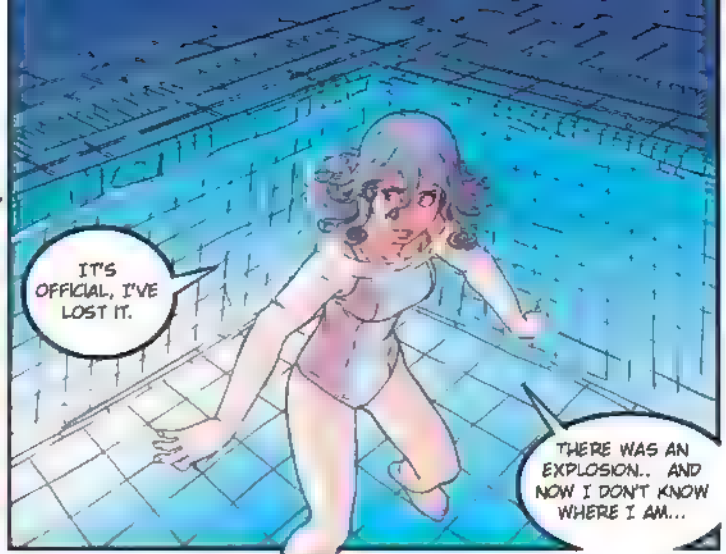
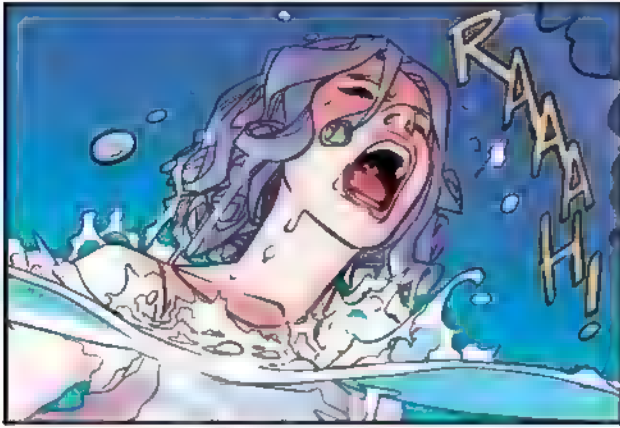




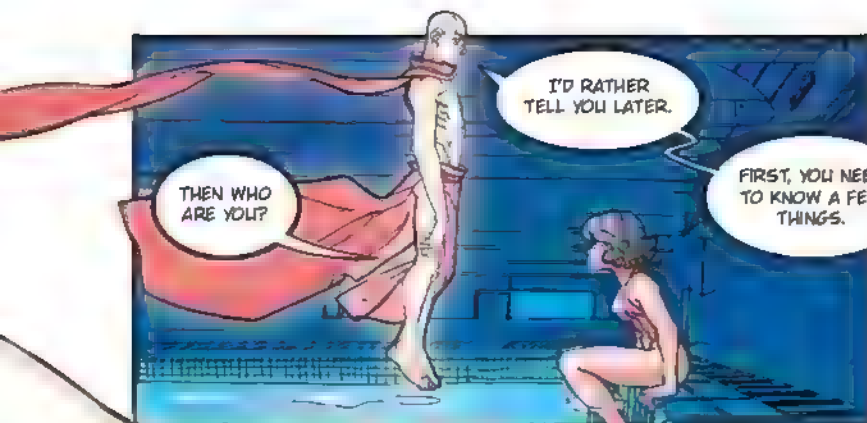








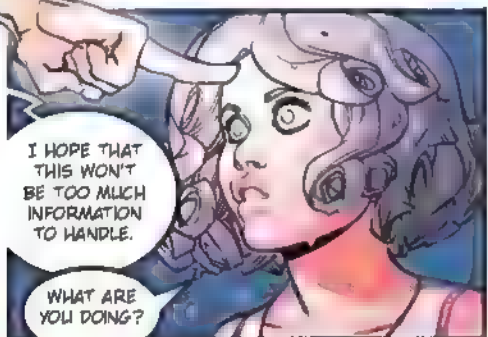




THEN WHO ARE YOU?

I'D RATHER TELL YOU LATER.

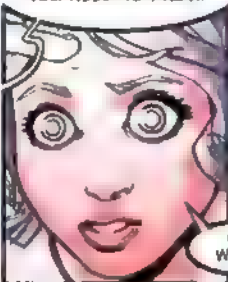
FIRST, YOU NEED TO KNOW A FEW THINGS.



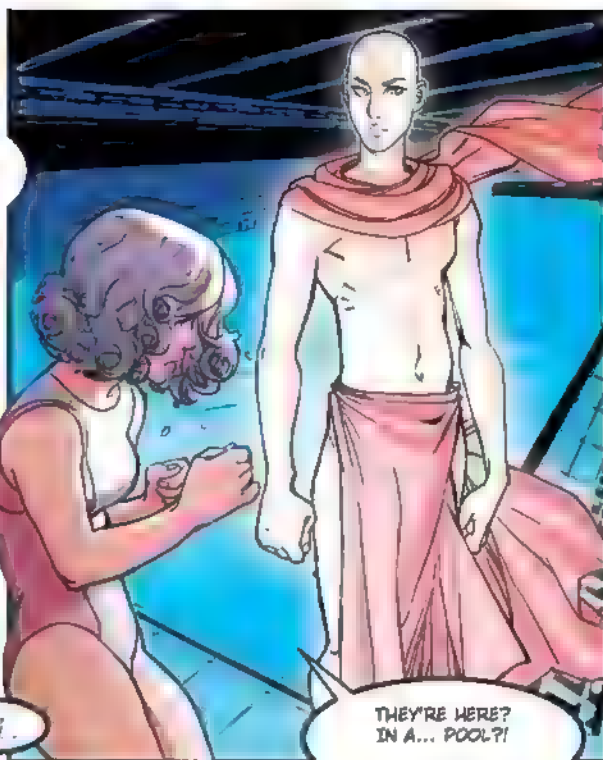
I HOPE THAT THIS WON'T BE TOO MUCH INFORMATION TO HANDLE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

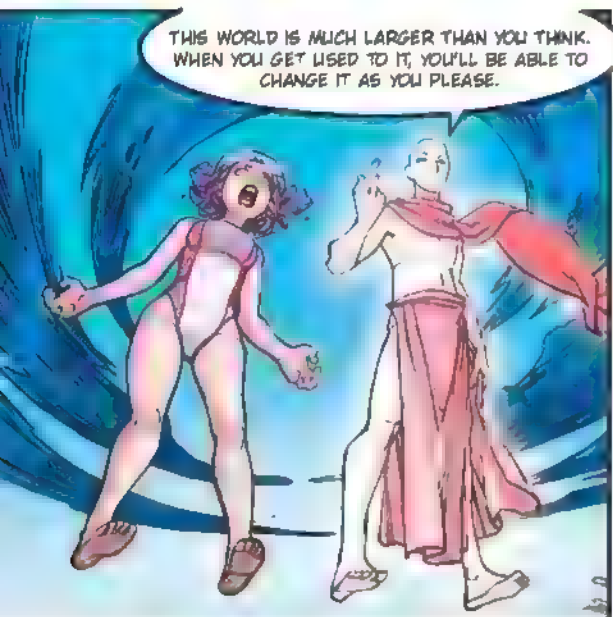
I'M TRANSMITTING WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.



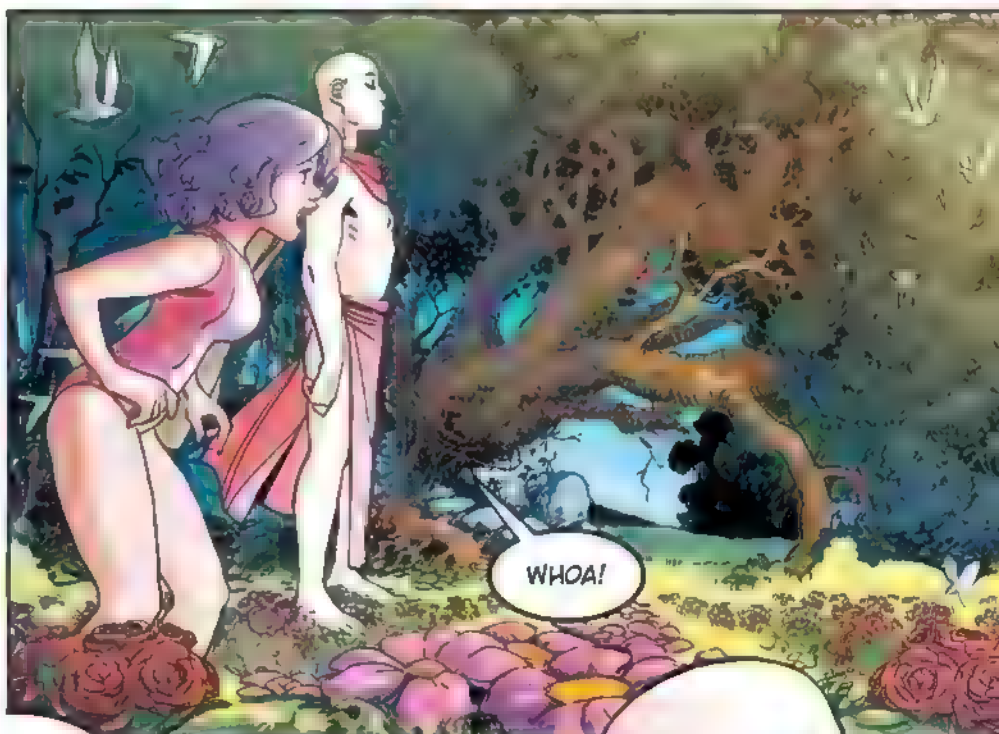
OH, WOW.



THEY'RE HERE? IN A... POOL?!



THIS WORLD IS MUCH LARGER THAN YOU THINK. WHEN YOU GET USED TO IT, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHANGE IT AS YOU PLEASE.

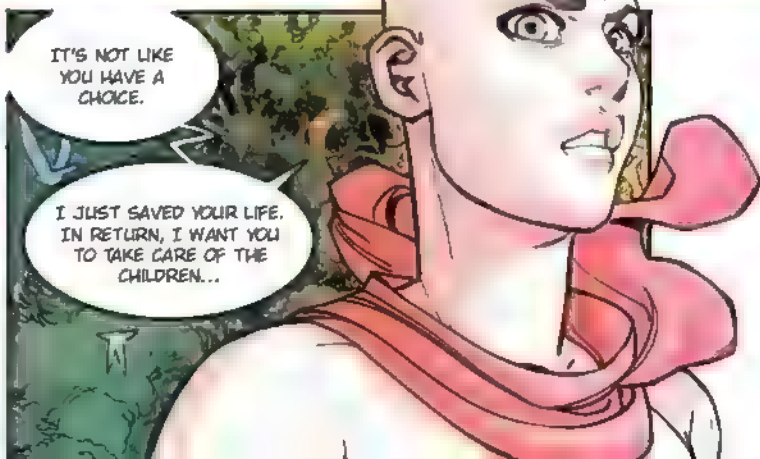


WHOA!



UH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN. "WHEN I GET USED TO IT?"

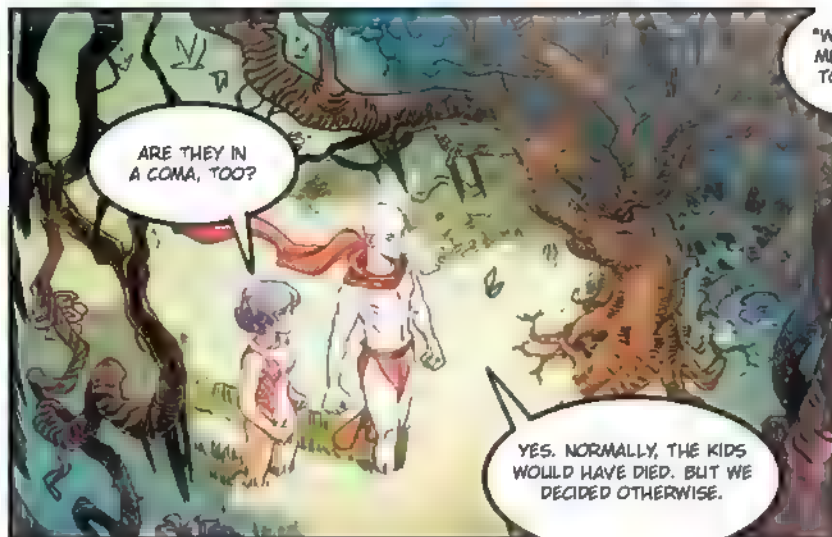
I'M NOT STICKING AROUND!



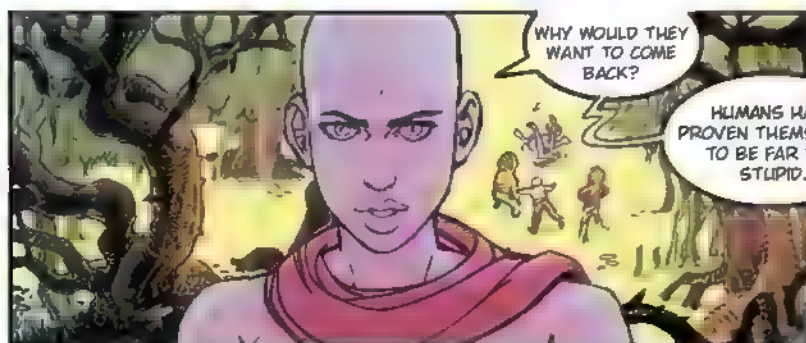
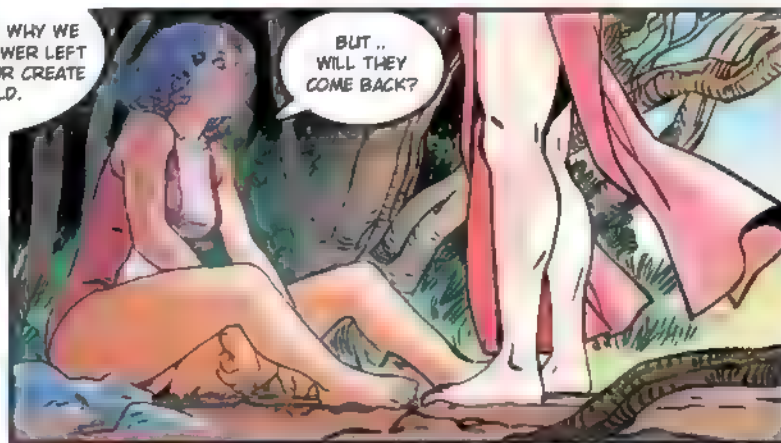
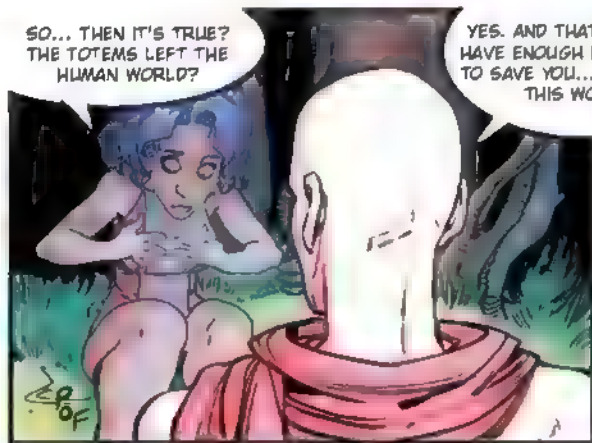
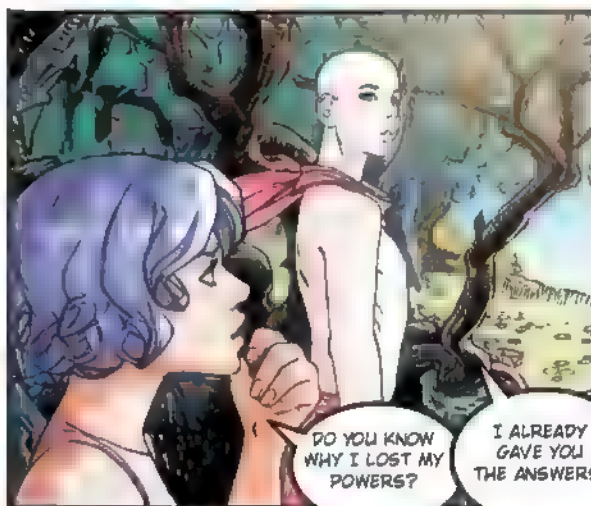
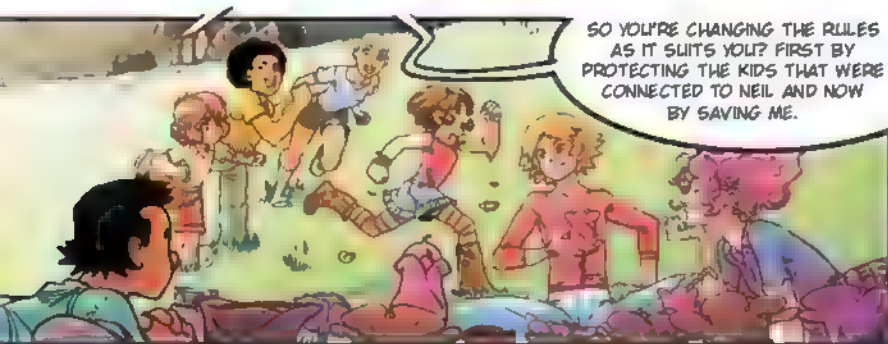
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE. IN RETURN, I WANT YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN...

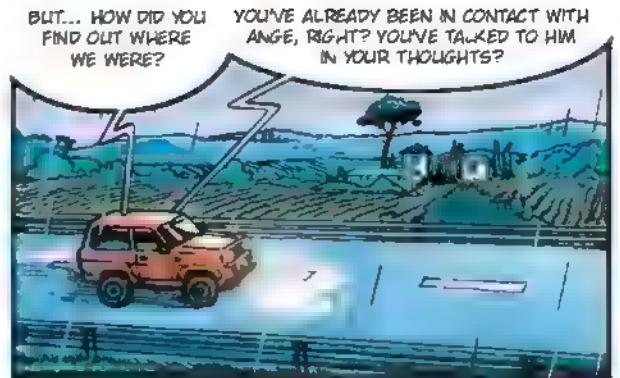
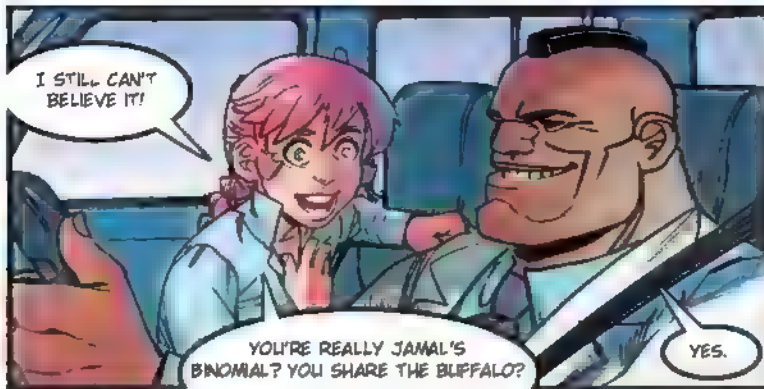




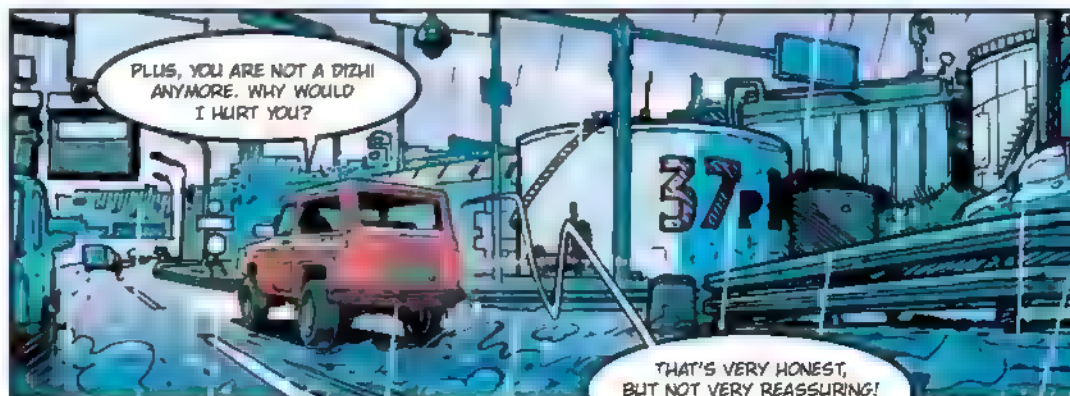
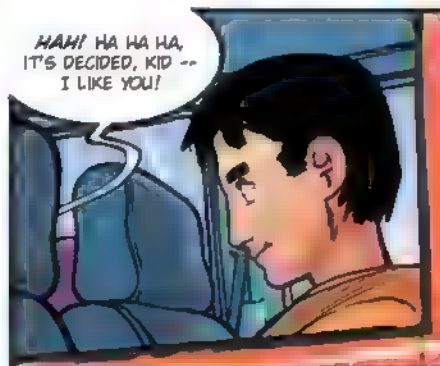
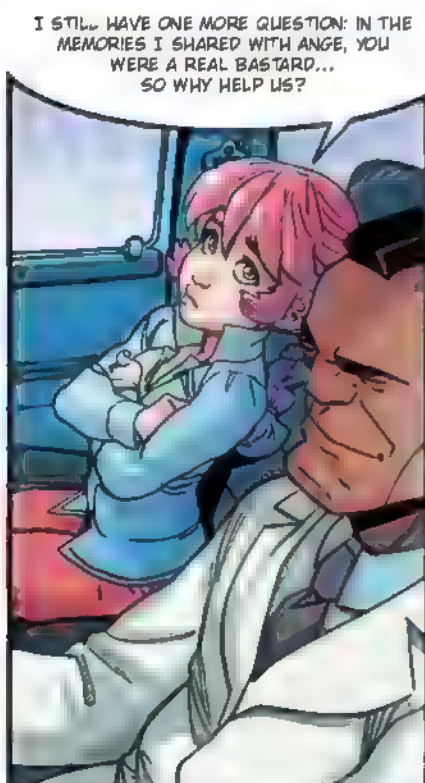
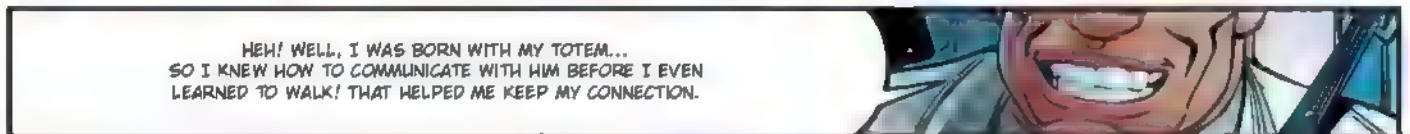
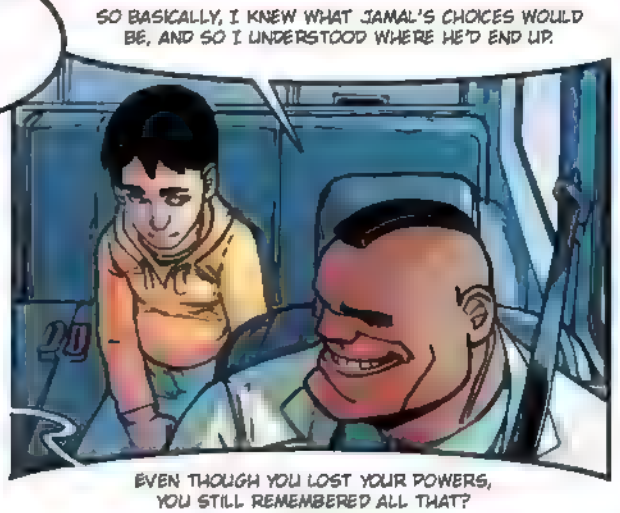
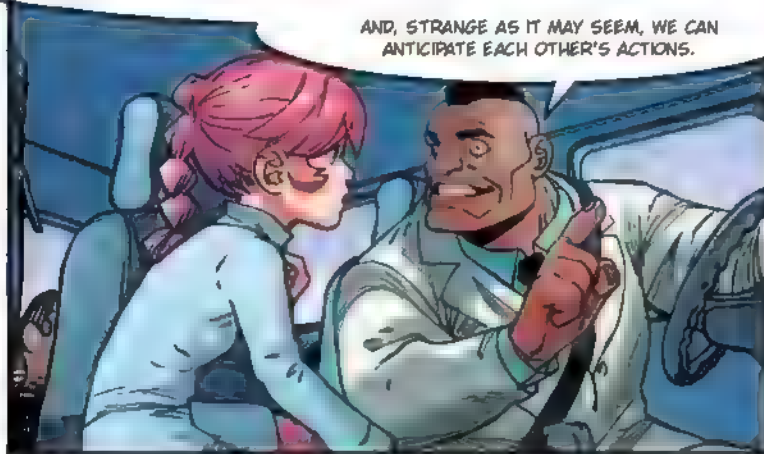
THE TOTEMS HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT THEIR PURE ENERGIES STILL COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER...



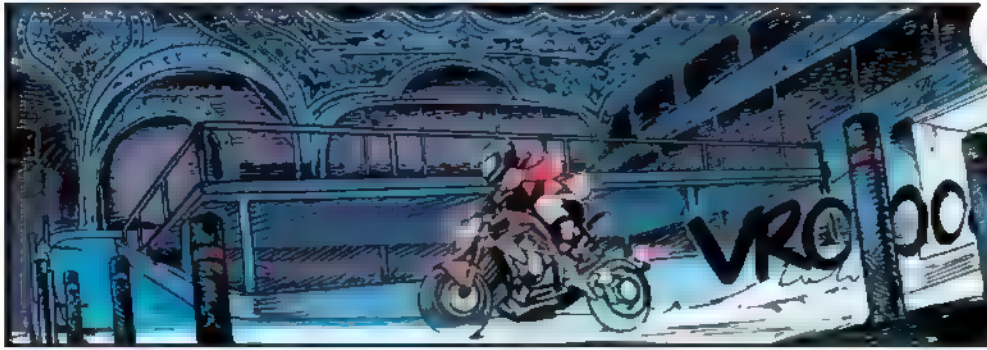




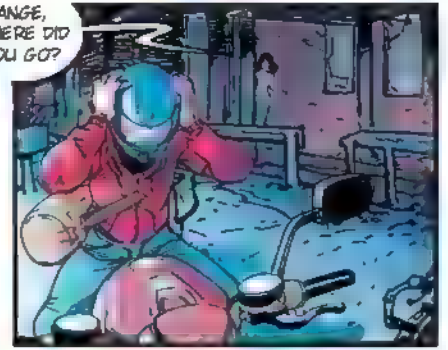
JAMAL AND I HAVE THE SAME THING. THE CONNECTION WE SHARE ISN'T JUST GOOD FOR COMMUNICATING. WE ALSO SHARE A NUMBER OF MEMORIES.





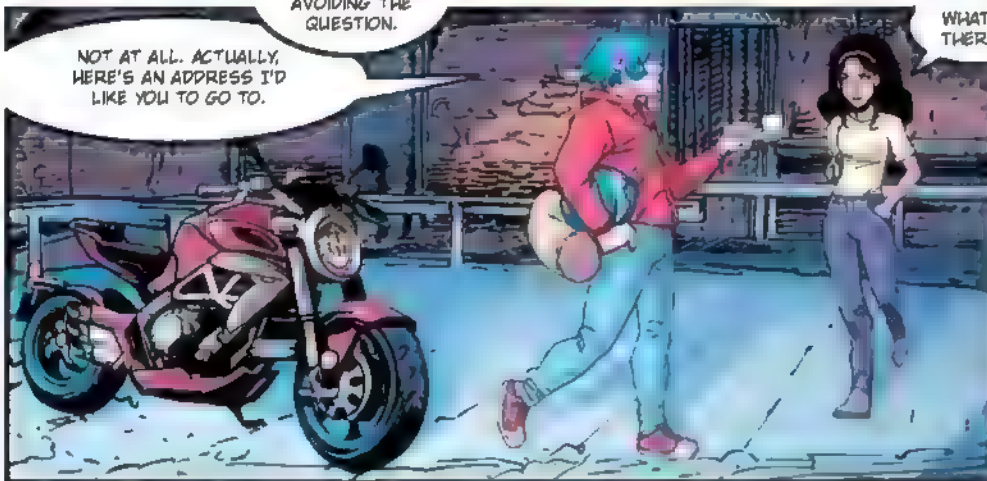


ANGE,  
WHERE DID  
YOU GO?



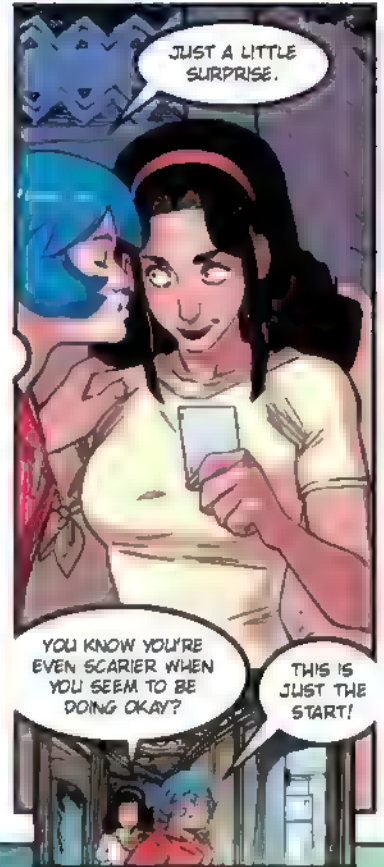
DON'T TELL  
ME YOU MISSED  
ME?

VERY FUNNY,  
BUT YOU'RE  
AVOIDING THE  
QUESTION.



NOT AT ALL. ACTUALLY,  
HERE'S AN ADDRESS I'D  
LIKE YOU TO GO TO.

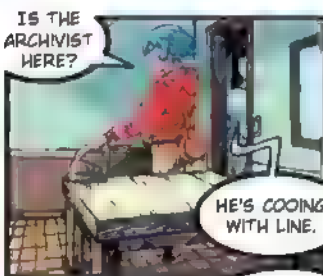
WHAT'S  
THERE?



JUST A LITTLE  
SURPRISE.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE  
EVEN SCARIER WHEN  
YOU SEEM TO BE  
DOING OKAY?

THIS IS  
JUST THE  
START!



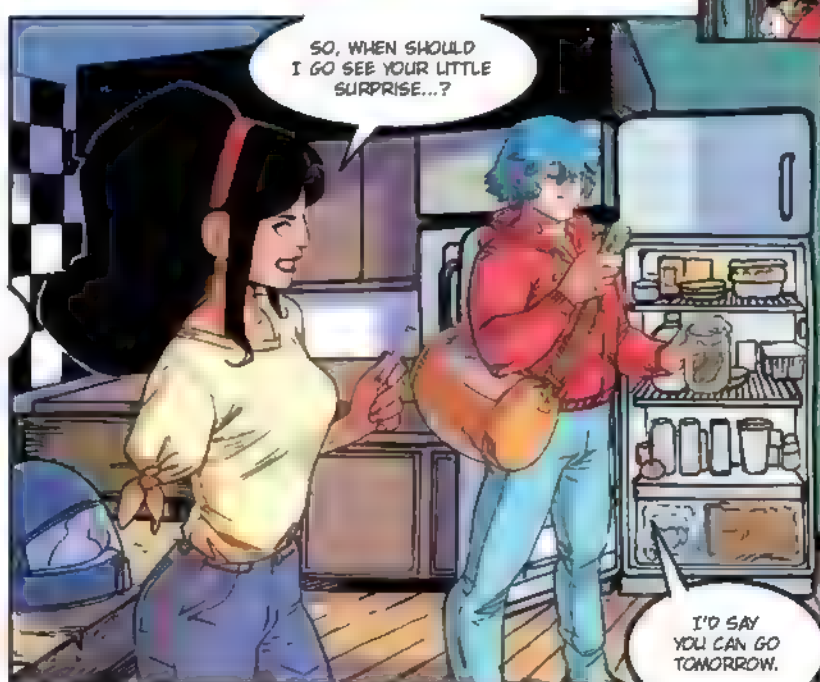
IS THE  
ARCHIVIST  
HERE?

HE'S COOING  
WITH LINE.



WHAT A  
HAPPY HOME!  
HUNGRY?

SURE...



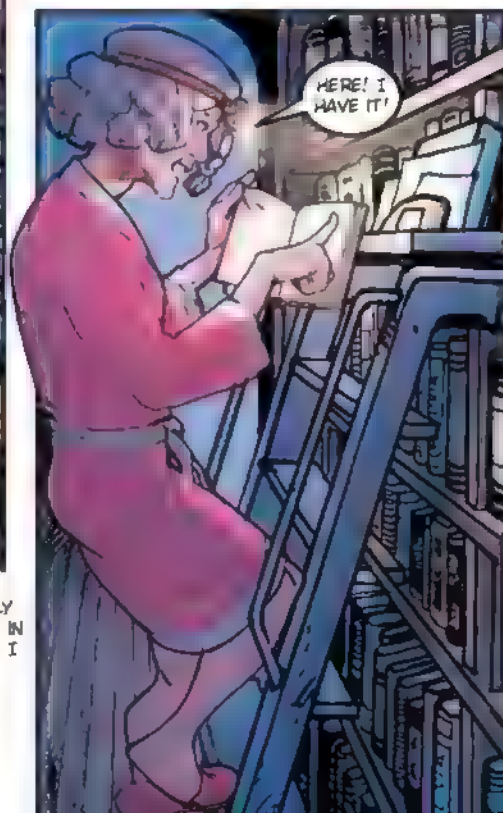
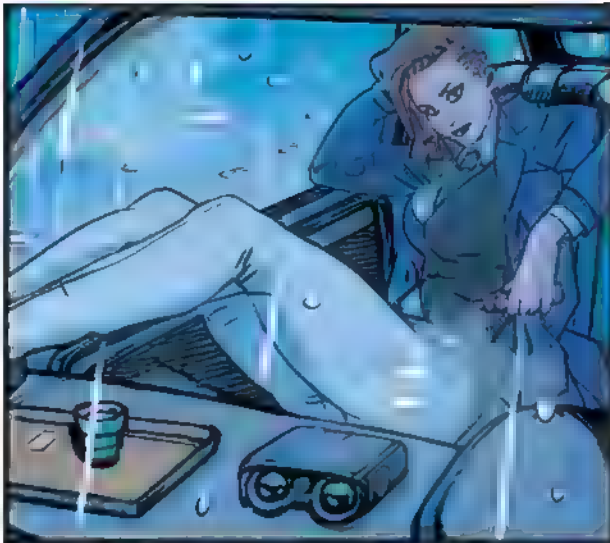
SO, WHEN SHOULD  
I GO SEE YOUR LITTLE  
SURPRISE...?

I'D SAY  
YOU CAN GO  
TOMORROW.

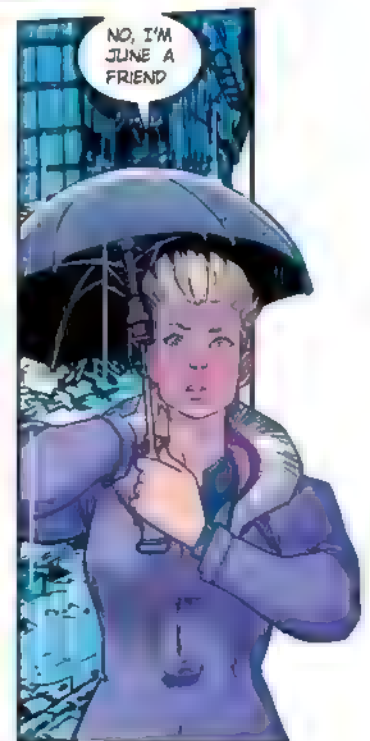
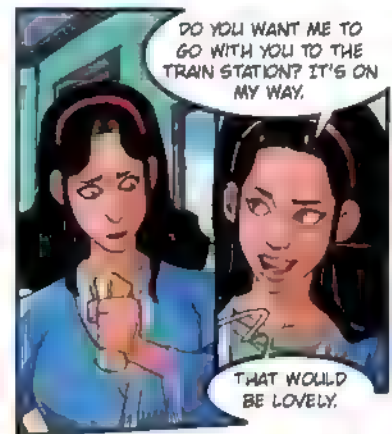
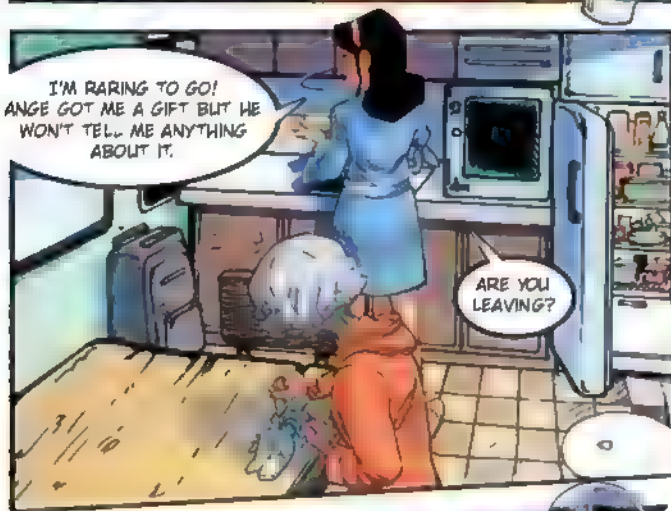


GRRR! I CAN'T  
STAND THE  
SUSPENSE!

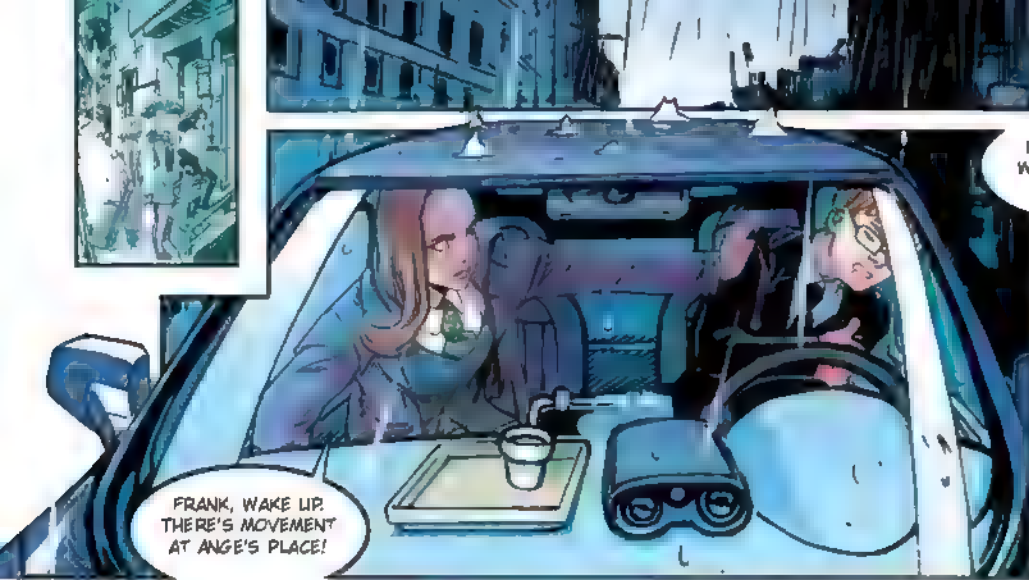










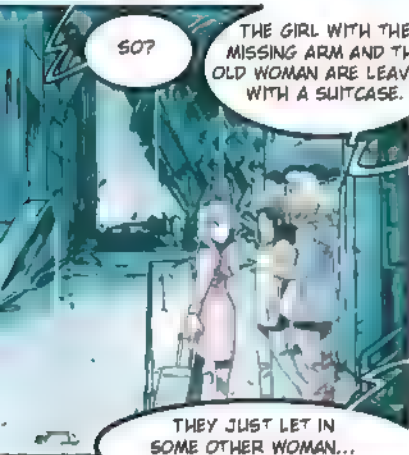


FRANK, WAKE UP.  
THERE'S MOVEMENT  
AT ANGE'S PLACE!

HUH...?  
WHAT TIME  
IS IT?



11:00.



SO?

THE GIRL WITH THE  
MISSING ARM AND THE  
OLD WOMAN ARE LEAVING  
WITH A SUITCASE.

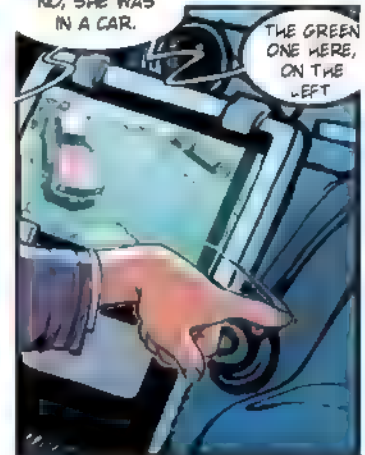
THEY JUST LET IN  
SOME OTHER WOMAN...



JUNE?

YOU KNOW  
HER?

SHE'S A FRIEND  
ANGE MET IN PARIS.  
DID SHE COME ON  
FOOT?



NO, SHE WAS  
IN A CAR.

THE GREEN  
ONE HERE,  
ON THE  
LEFT



OH MY GOD! I THINK  
WE'VE GOT OUR GUY.

WHAT?



LOOK, THERE'S STILL  
SOMEONE IN THE CAR.



WHO  
ELSE?

YOU THINK THAT  
COULD BE SHAAZ?

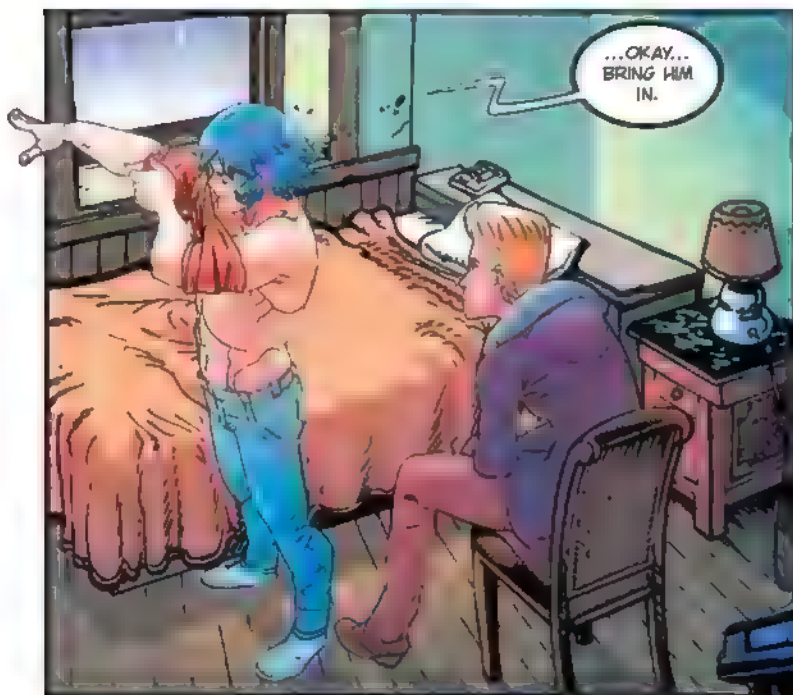
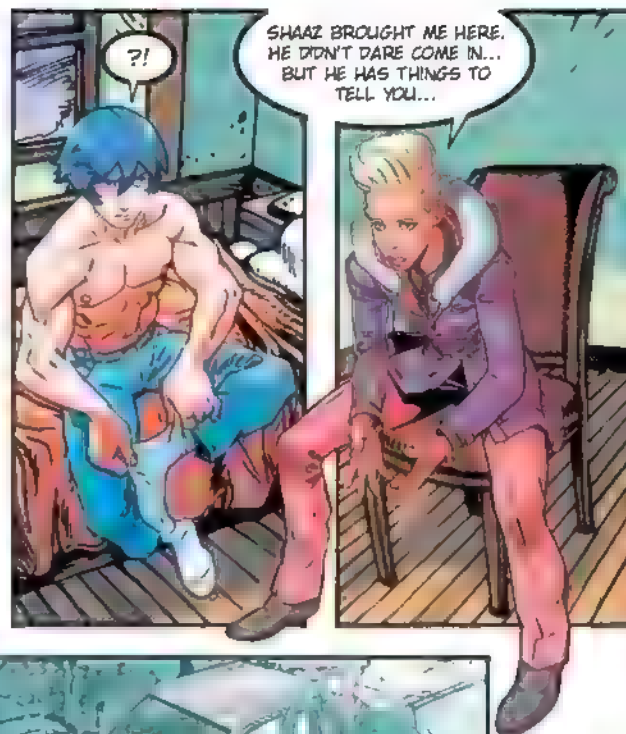
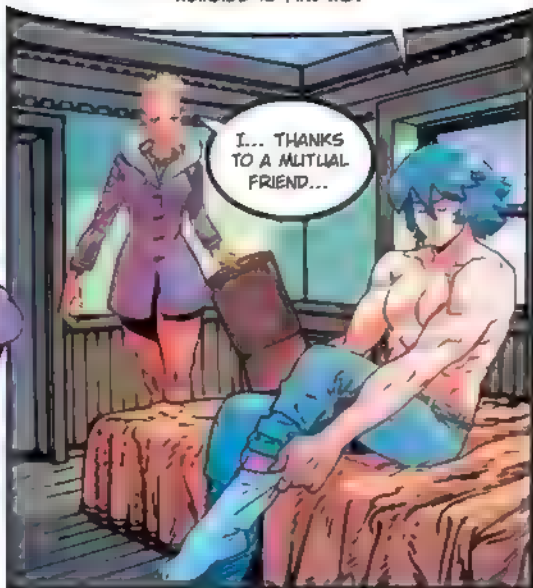


JUNE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



YOUR FRIEND AMELIA LET ME IN.


IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU! HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO FIND ME?








THE TWINS ARE NICE, BUT THIS IS GETTING ON MY NERVES.



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE THEM LISTEN TO REASON.



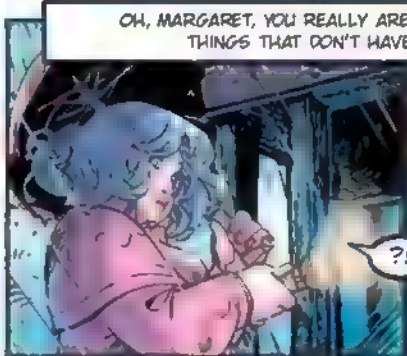
I'M EVEN STARTING TO THINK THAT EWA IS LOSING IT.



WHETHER SHE WANTS ME TO OR NOT, I NEED TO TALK TO KATIA.



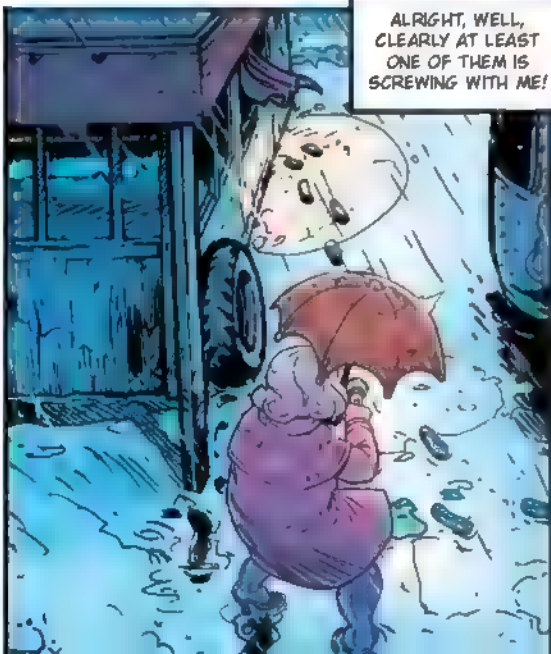
THIS MUCH RESENTMENT DOES NOBODY ANY GOOD.



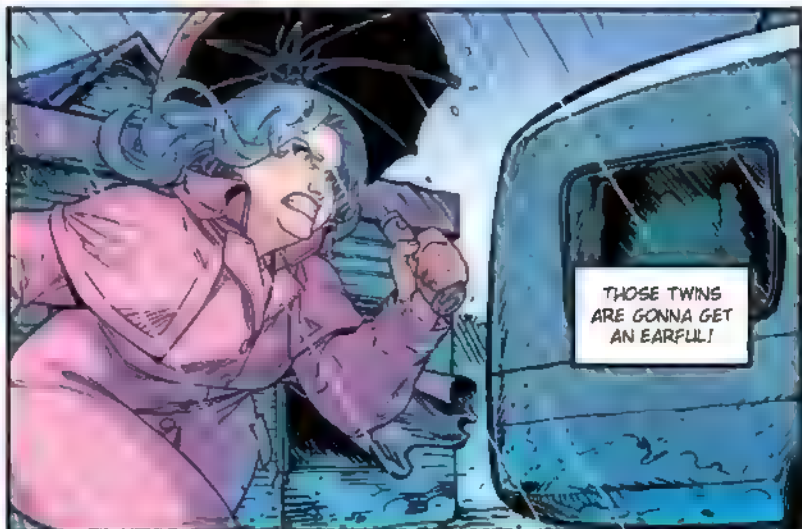
OH, MARGARET, YOU REALLY ARE A SUCKER FOR GETTING INVOLVED IN THINGS THAT DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.



?!  
3

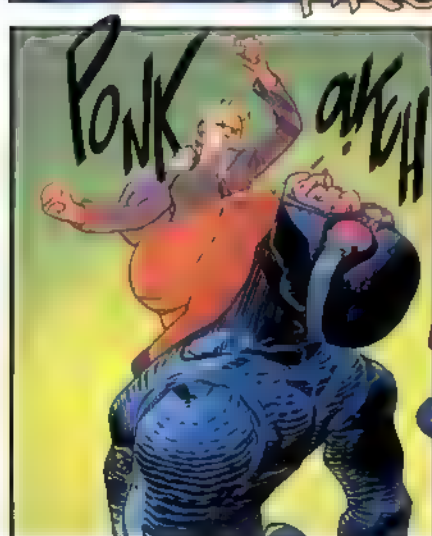
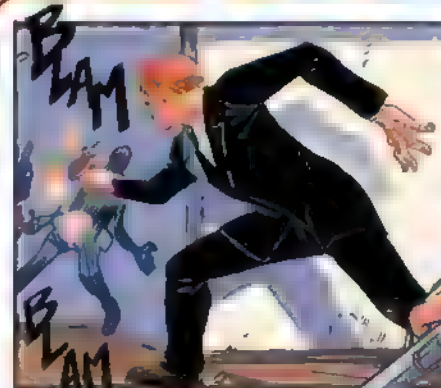
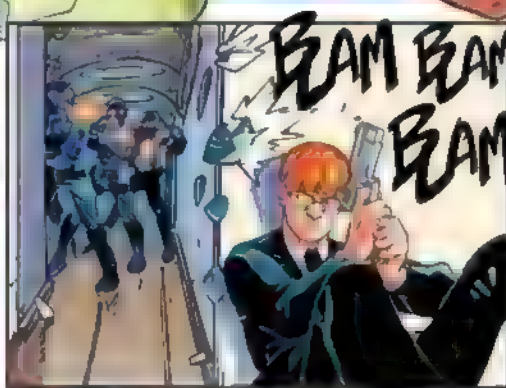
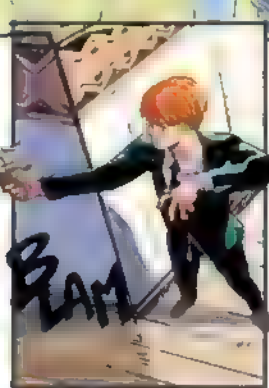
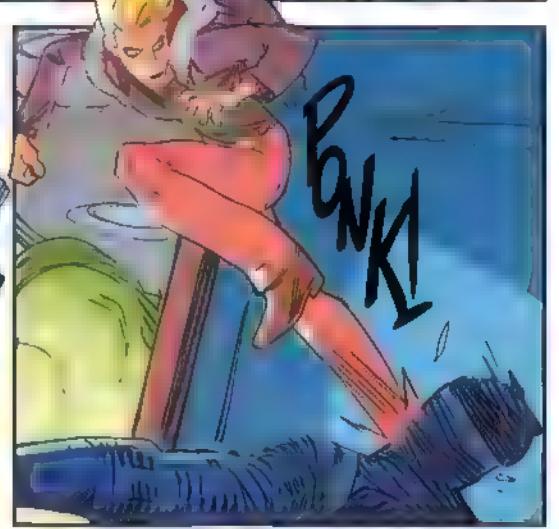
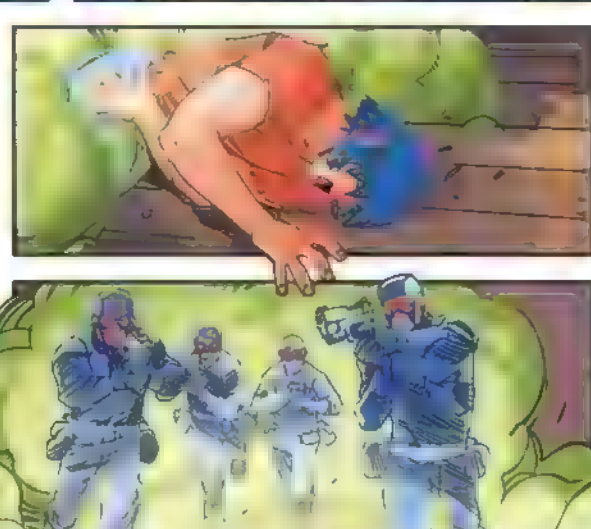
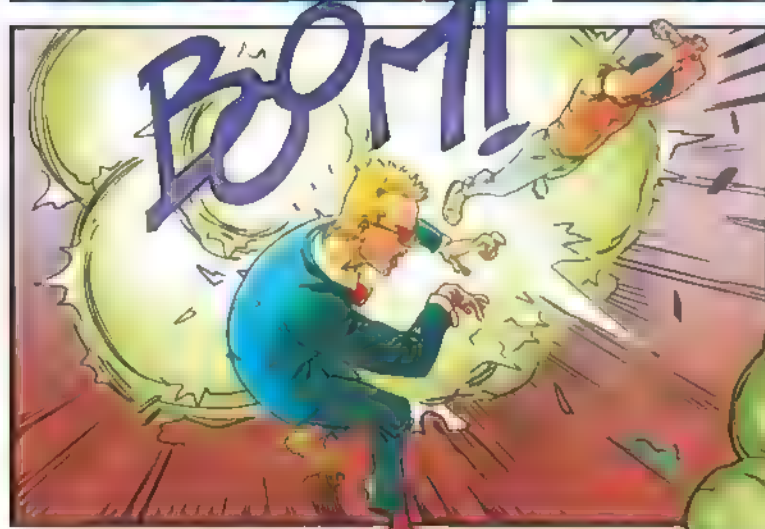
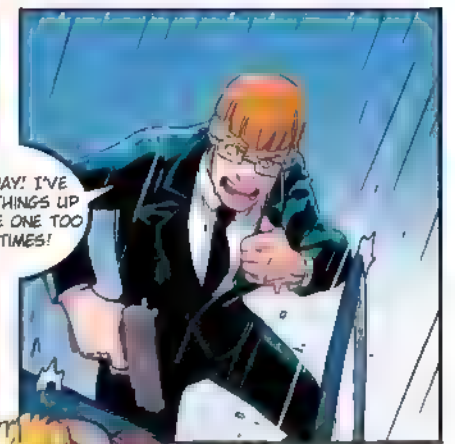
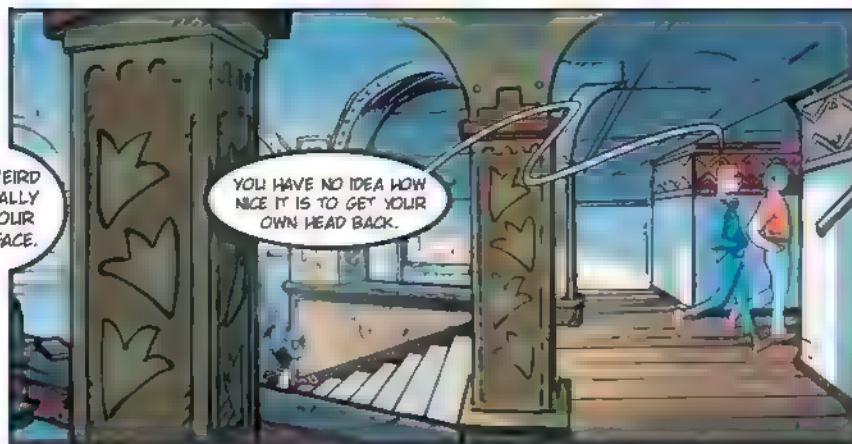


ALRIGHT, WELL, CLEARLY AT LEAST ONE OF THEM IS SCREWING WITH ME!



THOSE TWINS ARE GONNA GET AN EARFUL!









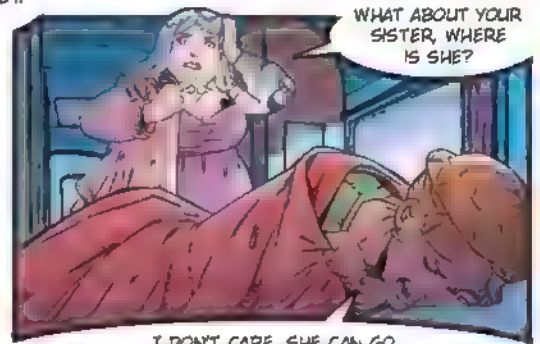
MY GOD, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO...

KATIA?!  
EWA?

I'M HERE,  
MARGARET.



I'M IN BED... I FEEL AWFUL.



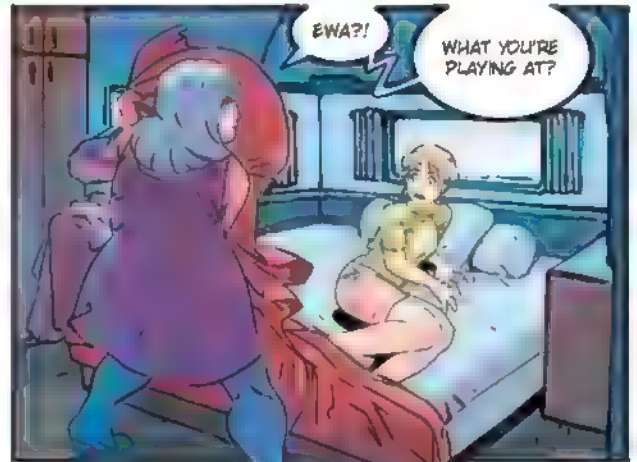
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER, WHERE IS SHE?

I DON'T CARE. SHE CAN GO DROWN IN THE RAIN FOR ALL I CARE...



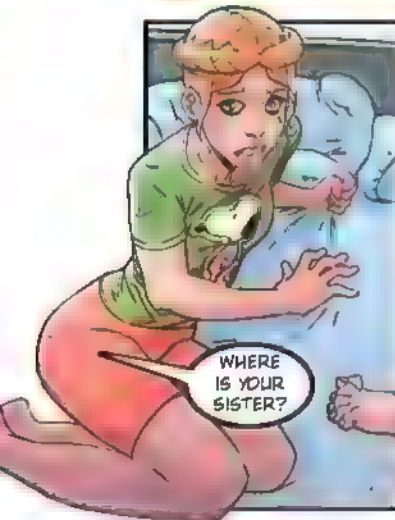
YOU NEED TO STOP BEING AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS LIKE... THIS.

?!

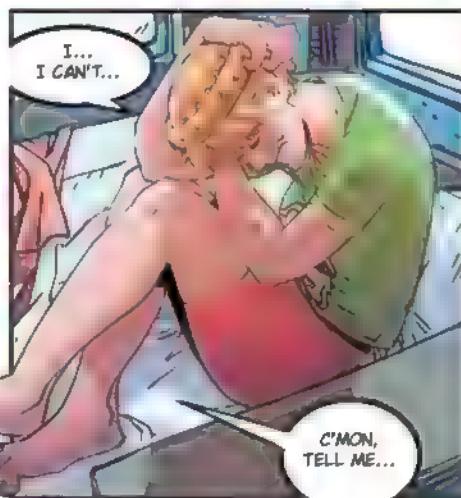


EWA?!

WHAT YOU'RE PLAYING AT?

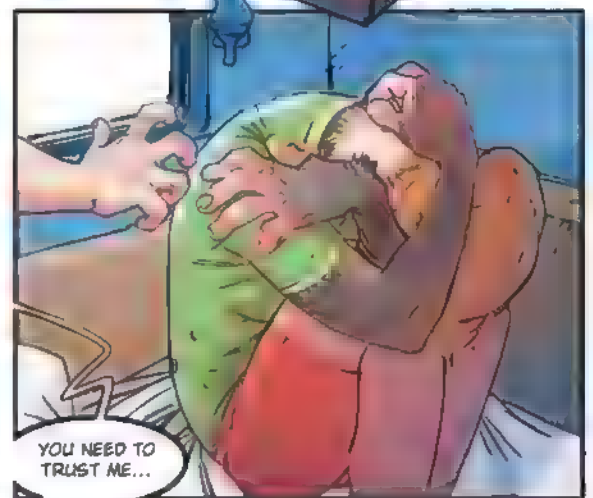


WHERE IS YOUR SISTER?

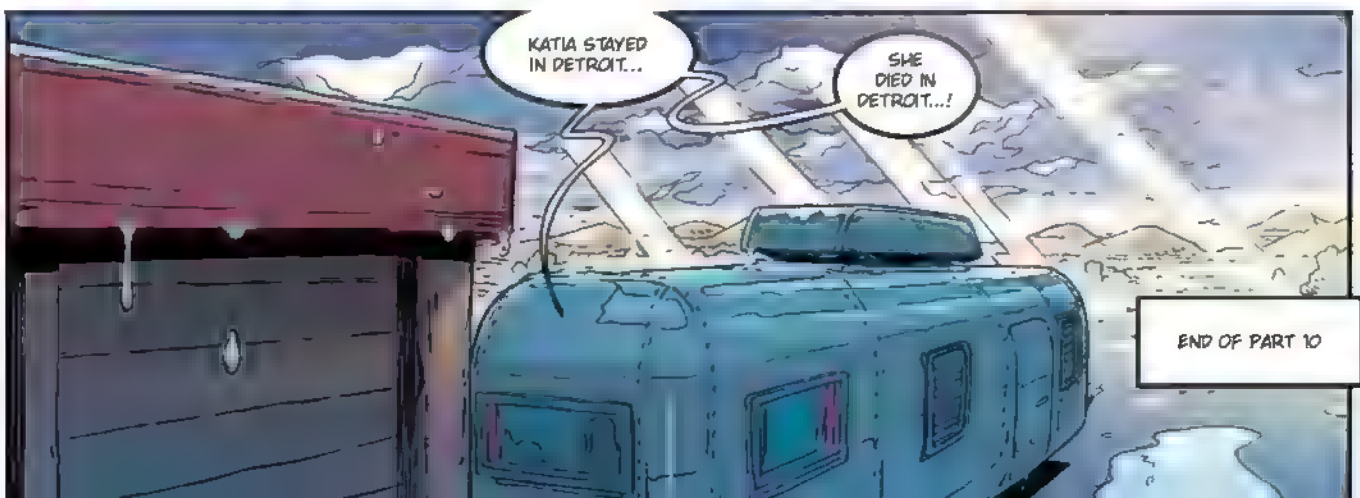


I... I CAN'T...

C'MON, TELL ME...



YOU NEED TO TRUST ME...



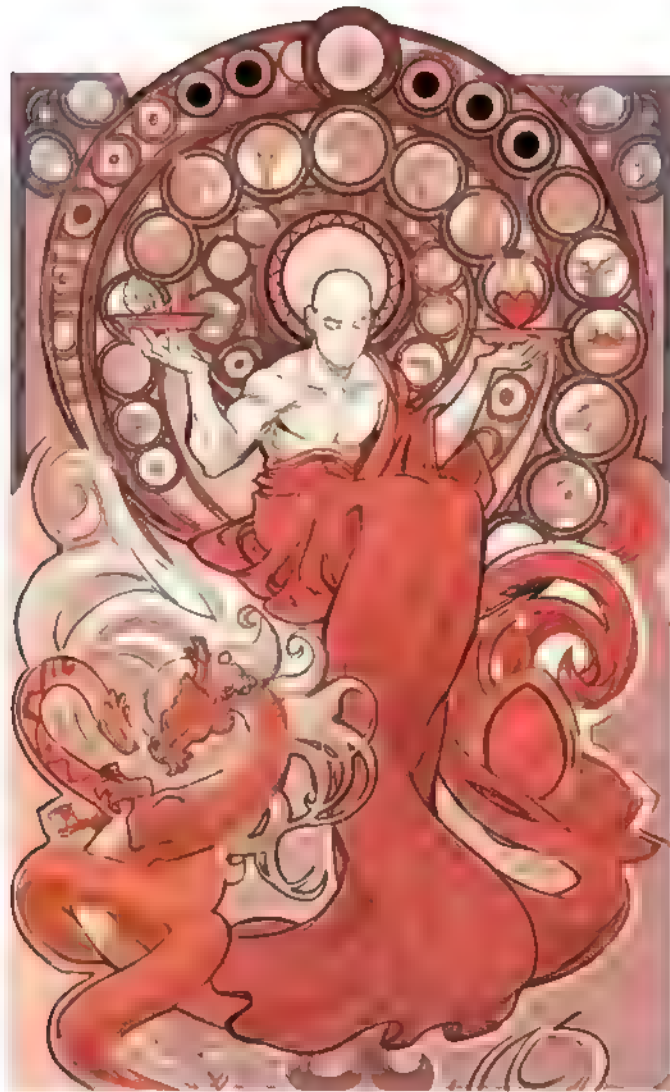
KATIA STAYED IN DETROIT...

SHE DIED IN DETROIT...!

END OF PART 10



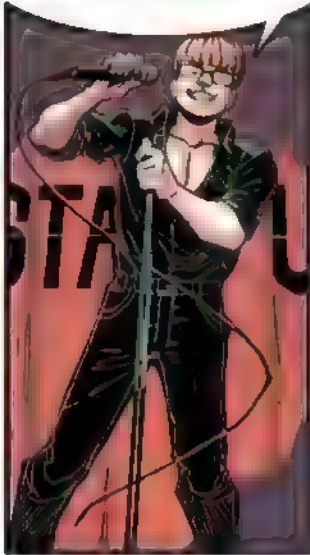
# PART ELEVEN: COMA







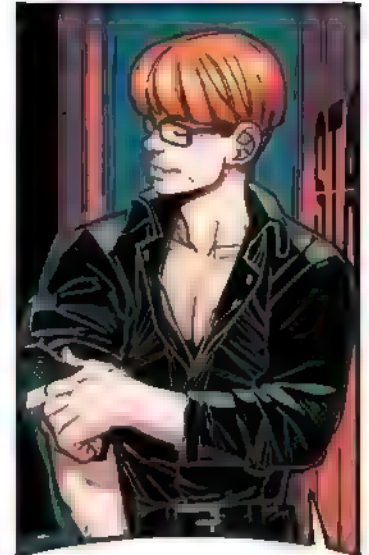
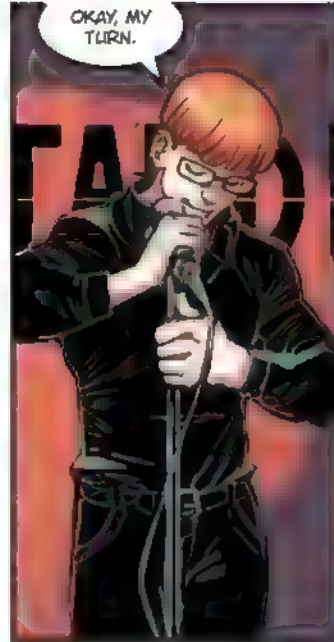
EXCEPT THAT I NEVER ASKED TO BE IN THE FBI. THE WORK IS PRETTY COOL, BUT MY CHILDHOOD DREAM WAS TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH ON STAGE!



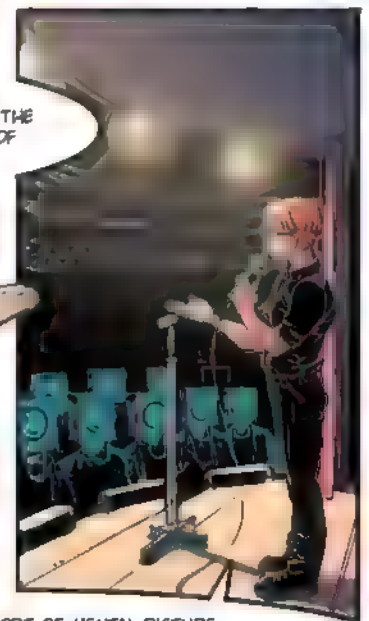
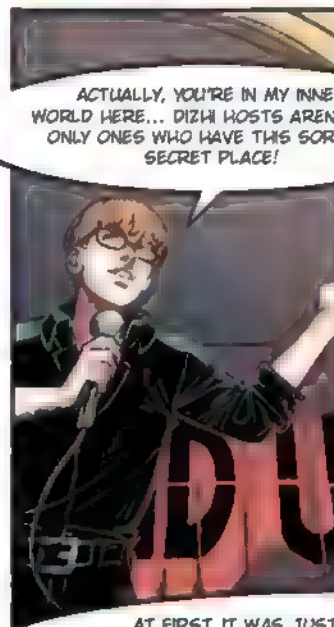
TRACKING PEOPLE, LOCKING THEM UP, TORTURING THEM... THAT WAS NEVER REALLY PART OF THE PLAN.



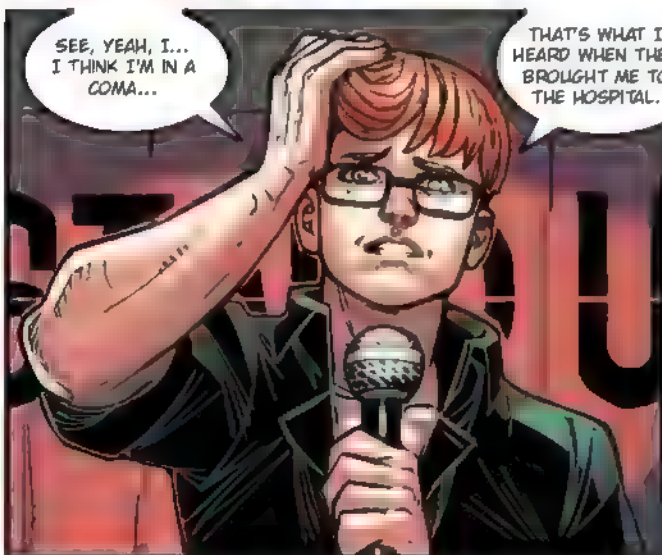
WELL, UNLESS THEY DIDN'T LAUGH AT MY JOKES, BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT...



I BET YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I'M HERE. I MEAN, AN FBI AGENT ON STAGE IS A LITTLE CRAZY.



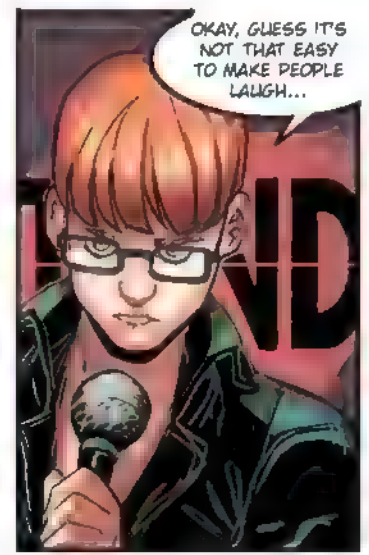
AT FIRST, IT WAS JUST SORT OF MENTAL PICTURE... OF COURSE, IT CAN BE A LOT MORE THAN THAT. I TOOK REFUGE HERE RECENTLY JUST AS I STARTED FEELING MYSELF DRIFT OFF...



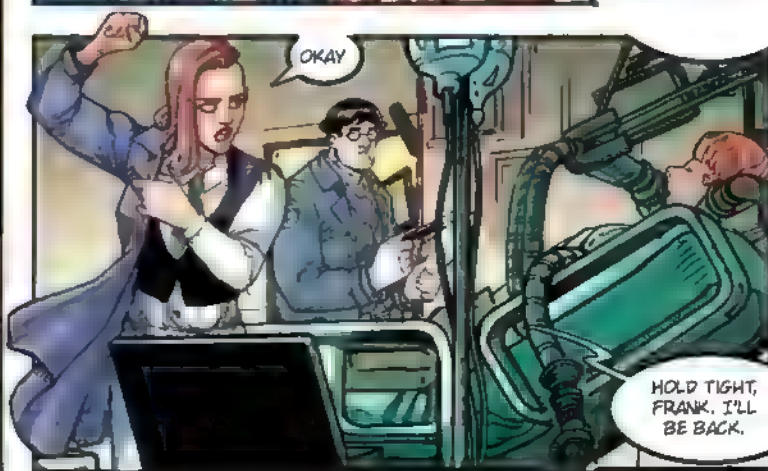
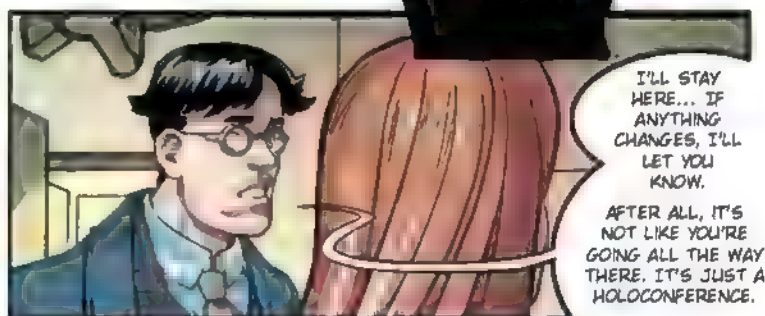
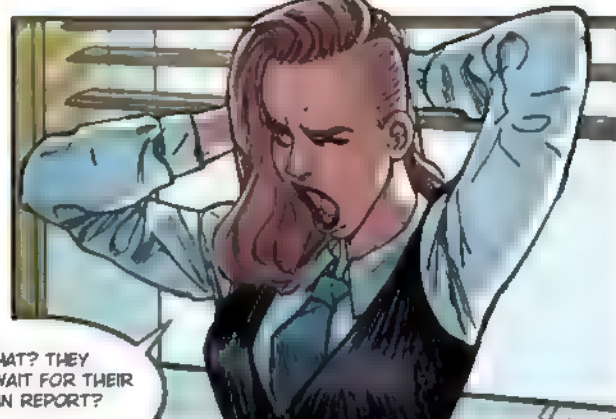
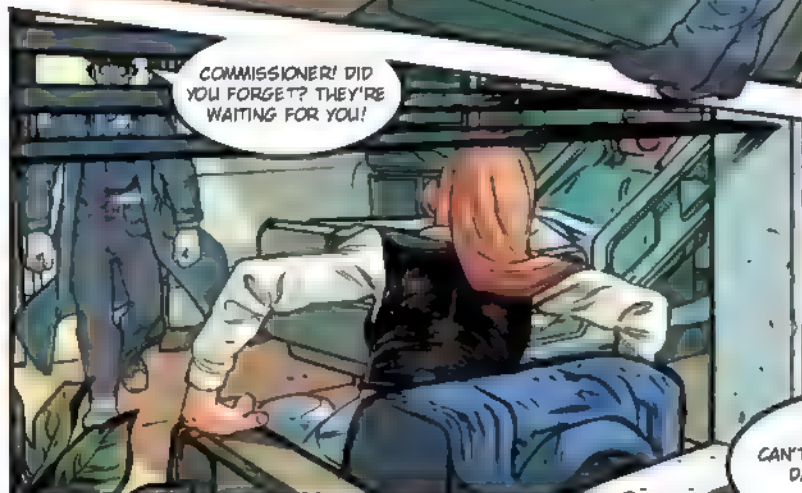
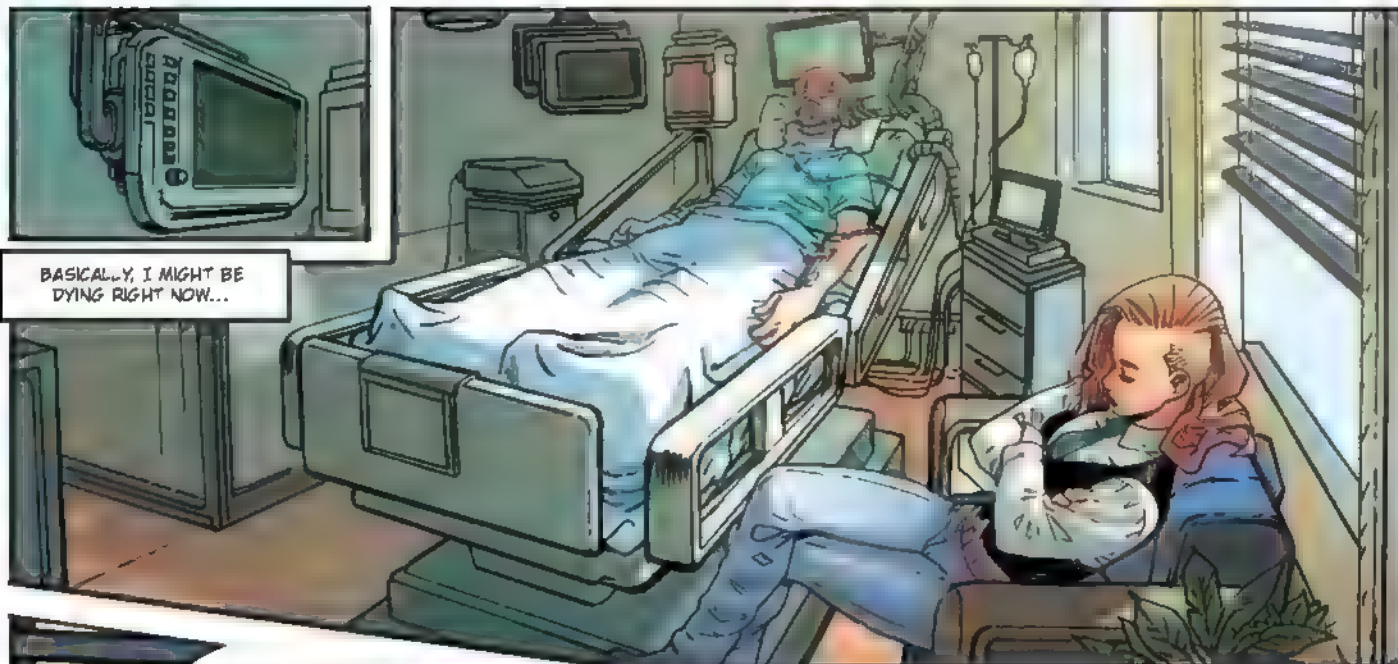
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD WHEN THEY BROUGHT ME TO THE HOSPITAL.



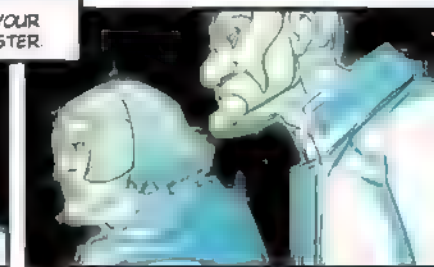
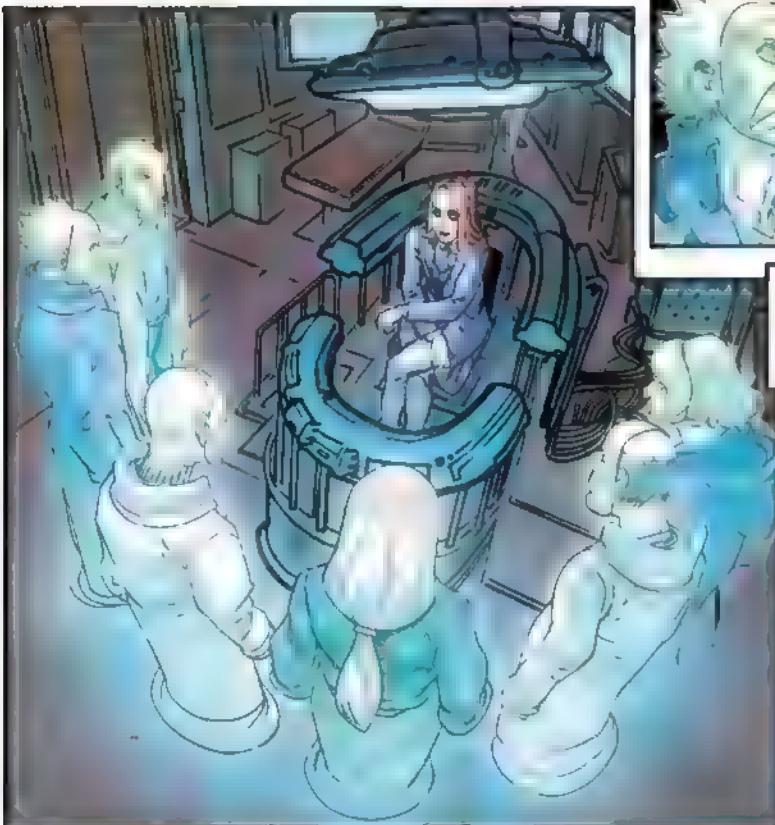
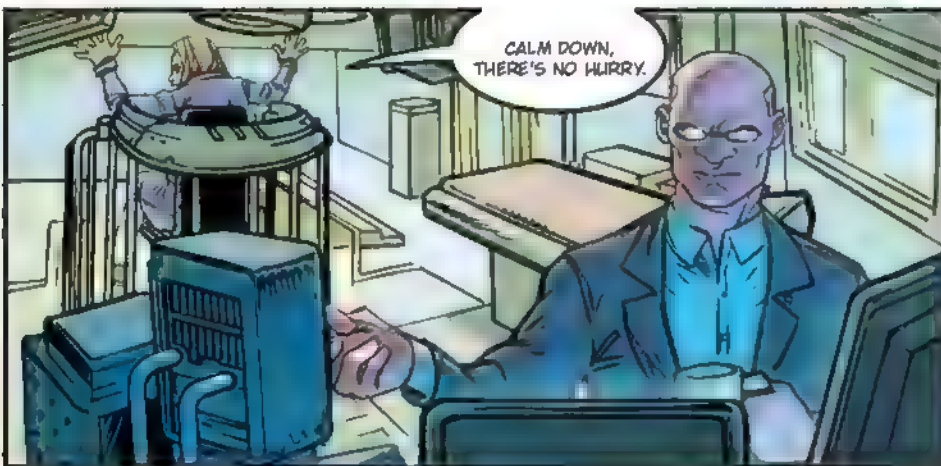
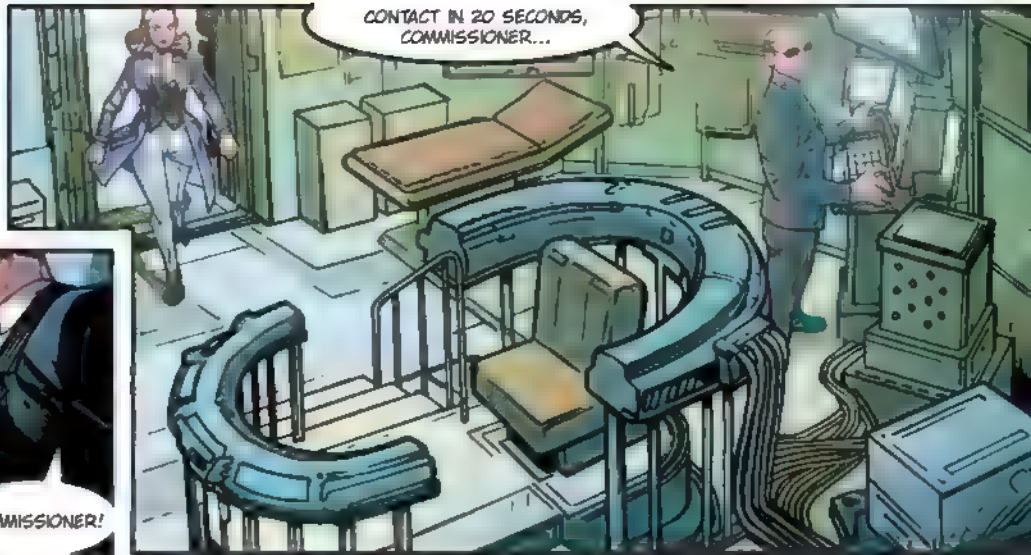
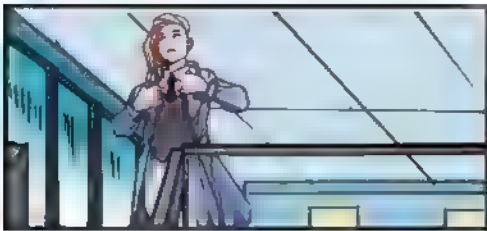
"HIS CONDITION IS VERY SERIOUS, WE SHOULD PUT HIM IN A COMA."





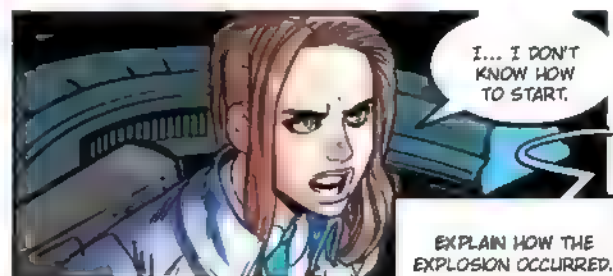






COMMISSIONER BOZULICH, YOUR MISSION WAS A TOTAL DISASTER.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN CALLED FORTH TODAY SO WE CAN DECIDE HOW RESPONSIBLE YOU ARE.





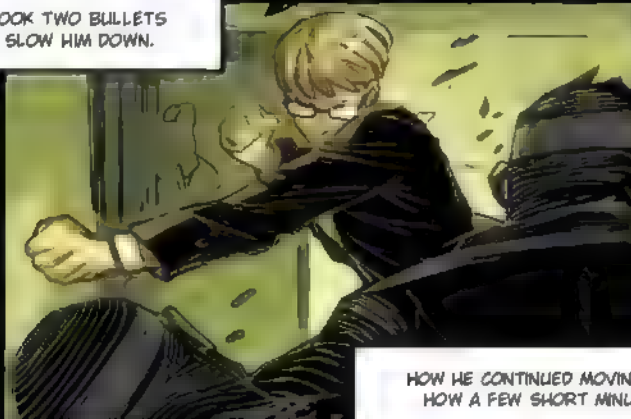
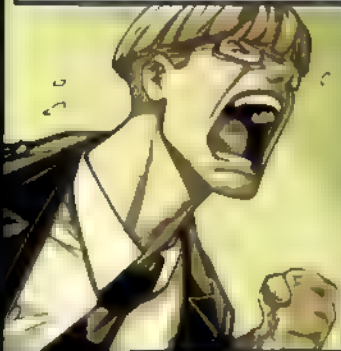


I STARTED FROM THE BEGINNING, AT SHAAZ'S HOUSE WITH THE KIDNAPPED CHILDREN TO WHAT ALLOWED US TO CONNECT HIM TO ANGEL TOMASSINI... AND FRANK AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE.



AND I CONTINUED TO DESCRIBE OUR STAKEOUT IN FRONT OF THE "ARCHIVIST'S" HOUSE AND THE MOMENT I REALIZED WE LOST CONTROL...

...TO THE MOMENT WHEN FRANK TOOK TWO BULLETS TO THE CHEST THAT DIDN'T EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN.



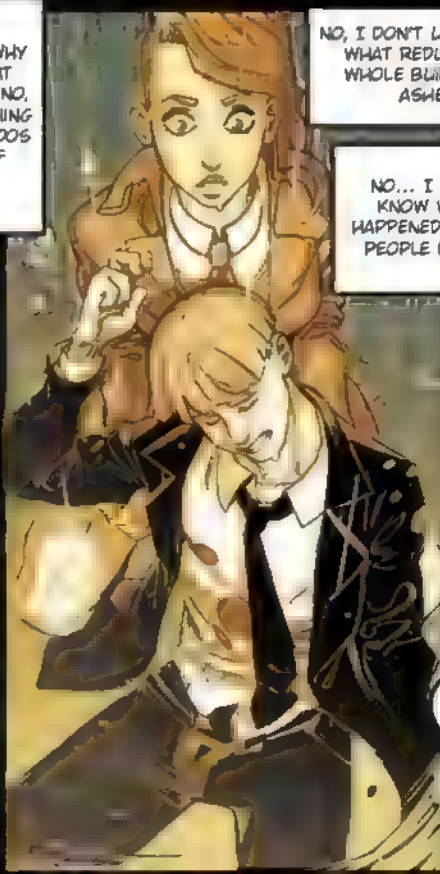
HOW HE CONTINUED MOVING FORWARD THROUGH THE ATTACKERS. HOW A FEW SHORT MINUTES LATER, EVERYTHING EXPLODED...

THEY ASKED ME QUESTIONS I DIDN'T HAVE ANSWERS TO.

NO, I DON'T KNOW WHY FRANK CALLED THAT GUY THE ARCHIVIST. NO, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE COMMANDOS WHO CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.

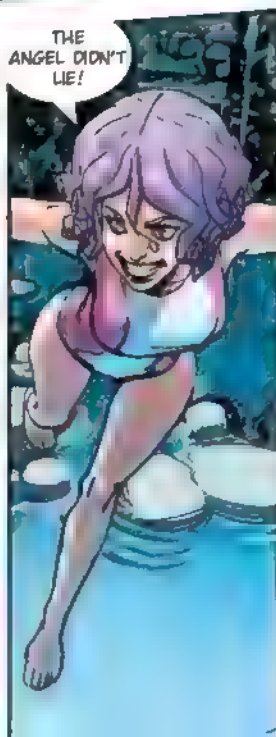
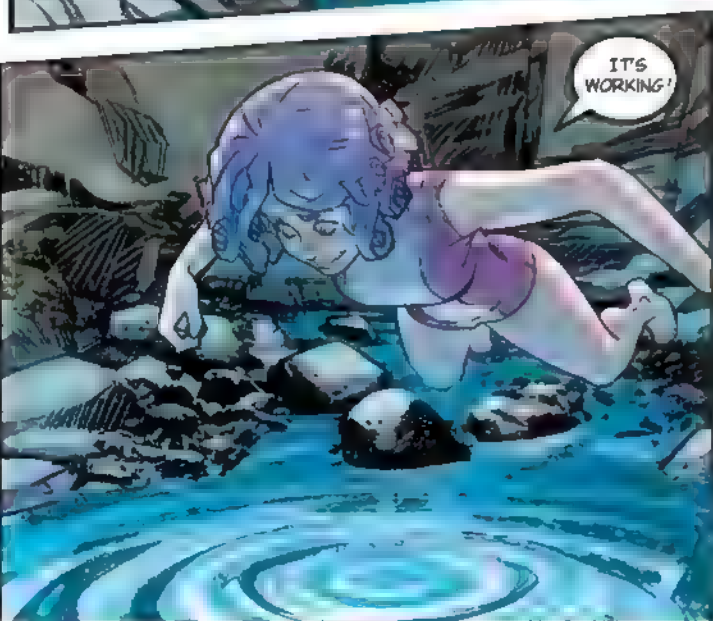
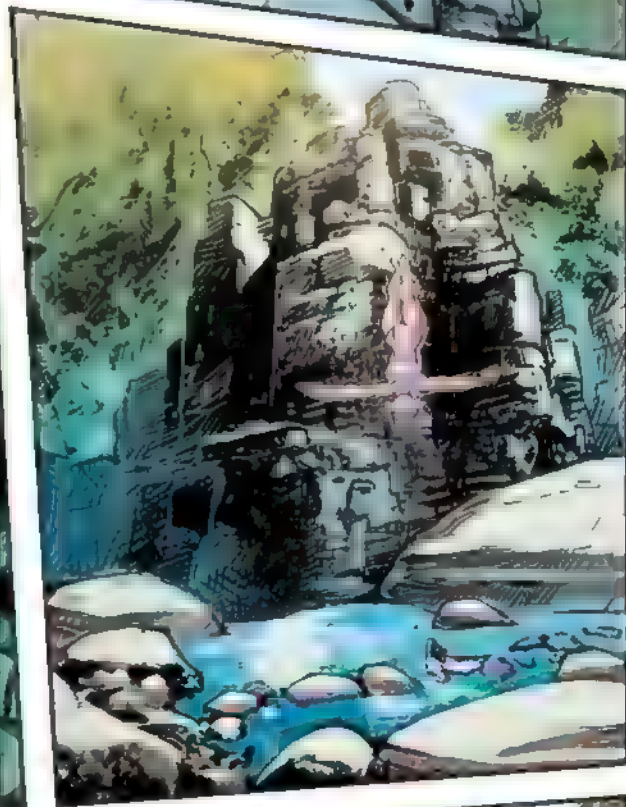
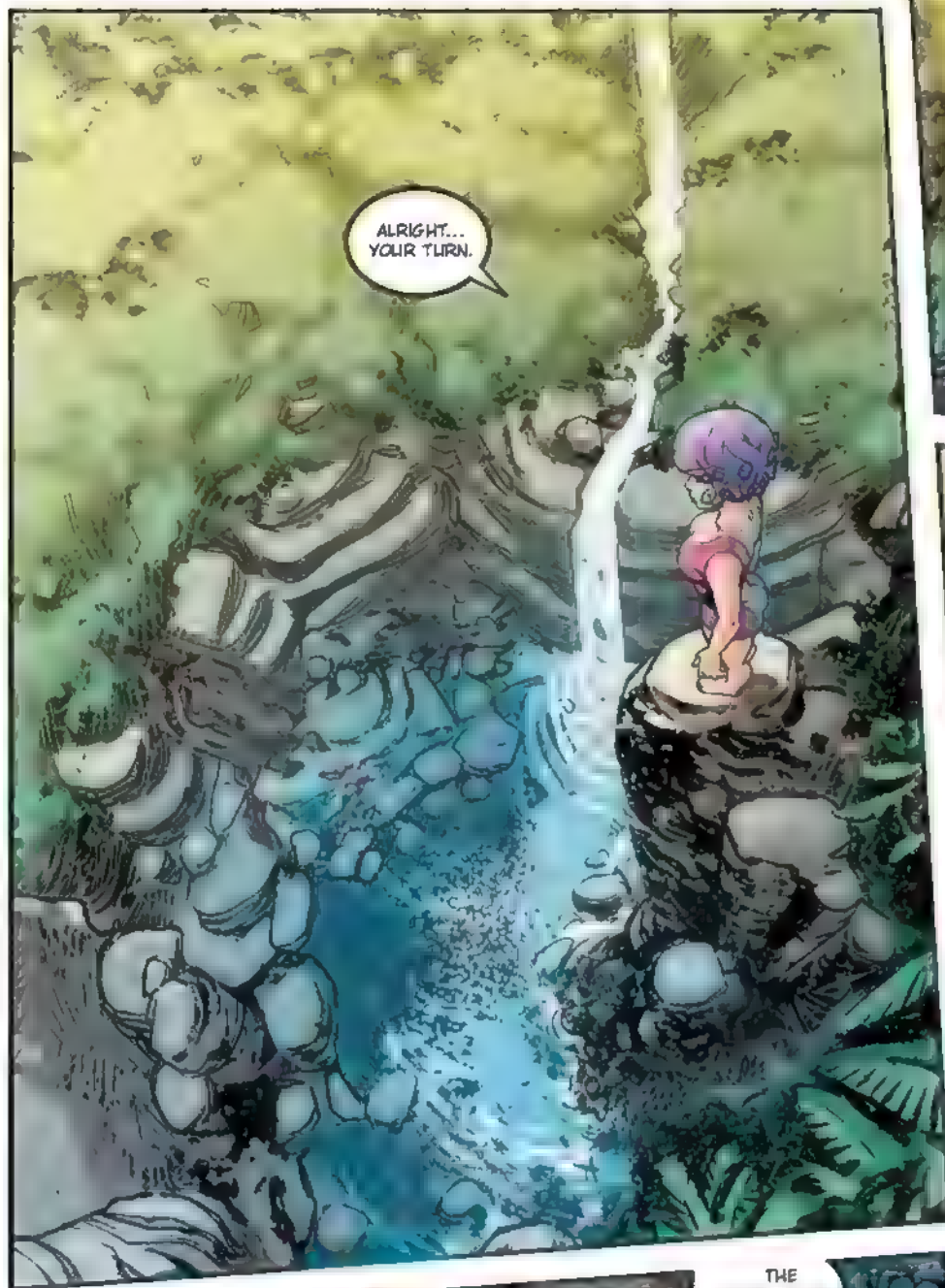
NO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT REDUCED THE WHOLE BUILDING TO ASHES.

NO... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE INSIDE.

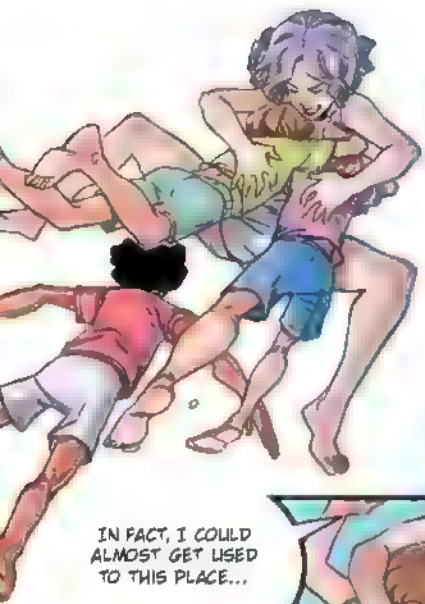


I DON'T KNOW.

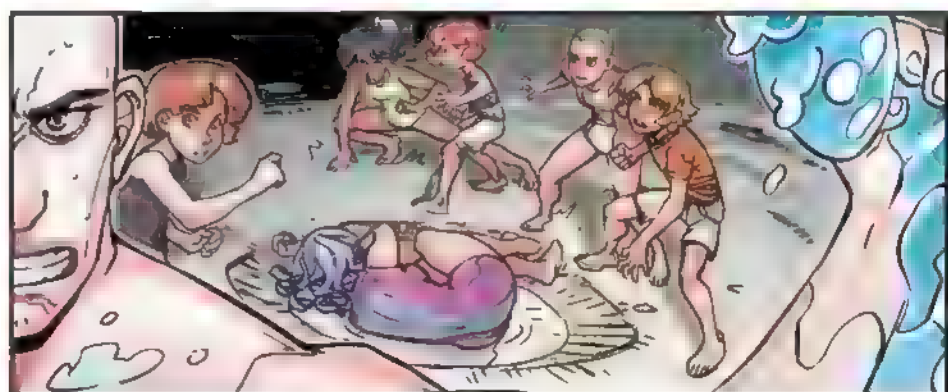
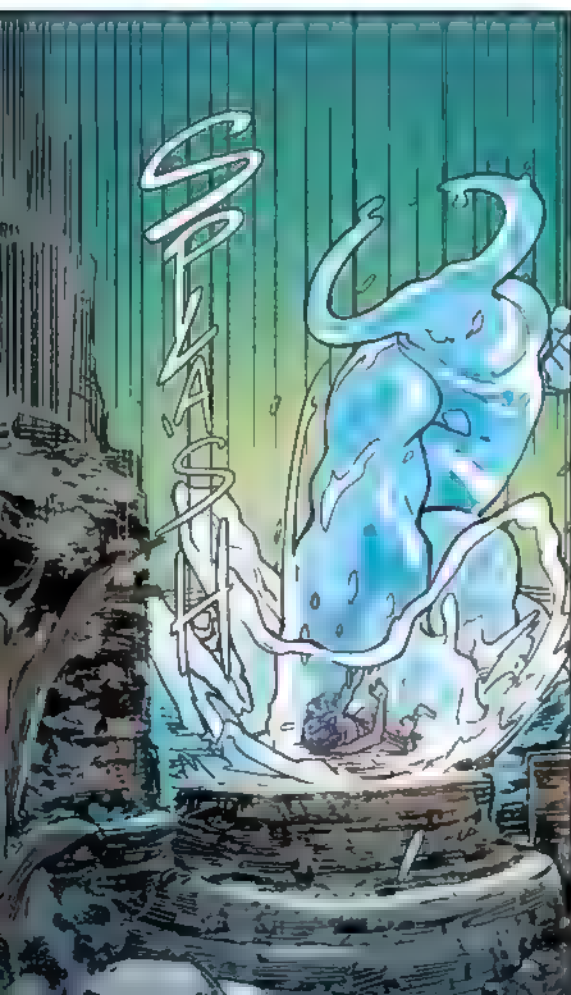
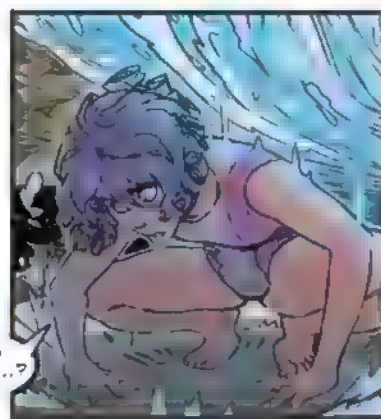
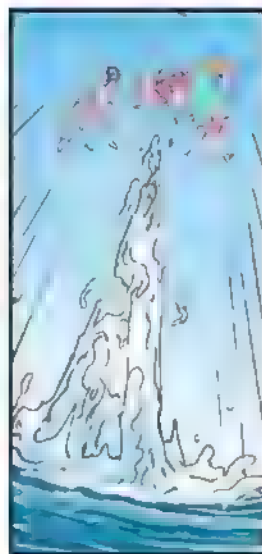
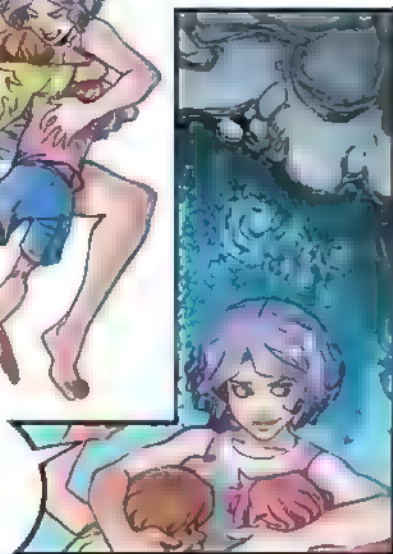




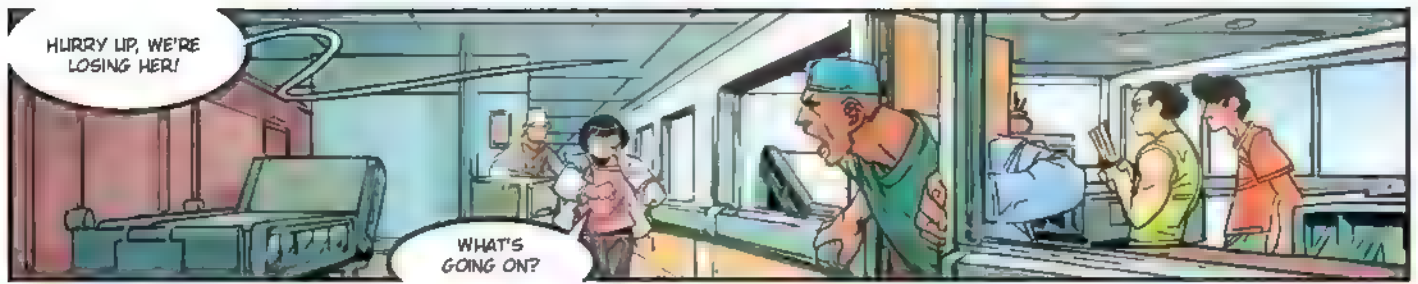




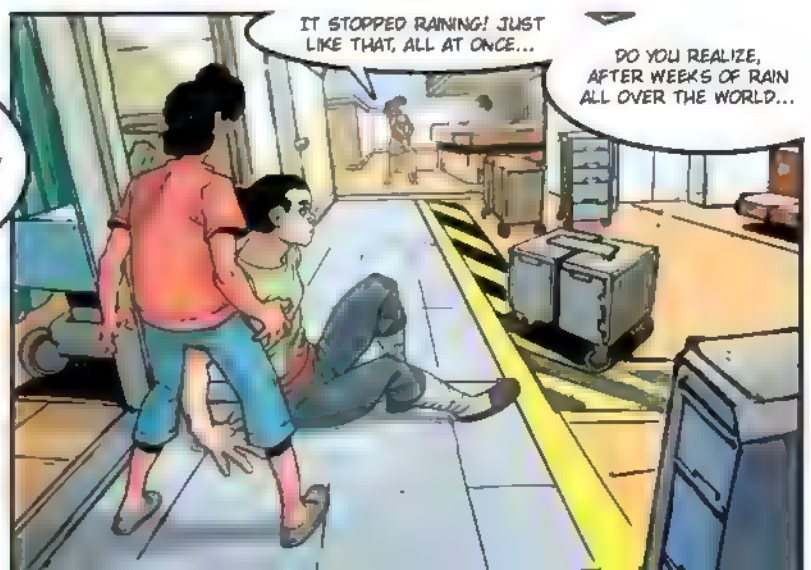
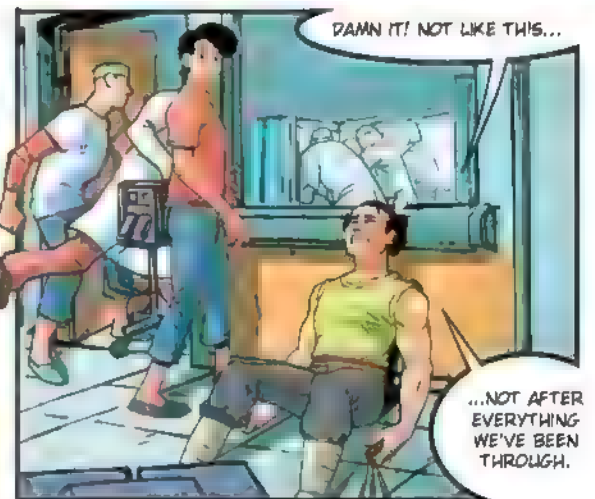
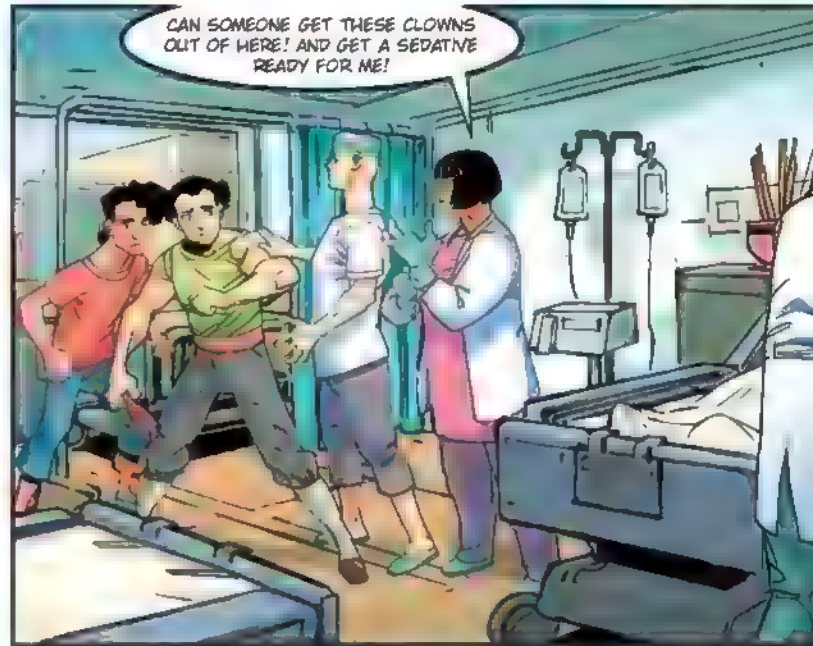
IN FACT, I COULD  
ALMOST GET USED  
TO THIS PLACE...







I DON'T KNOW... SHE WAS CALM ONE MINUTE, THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED HER! SHE STARTED CONTORTING IN EVERY DIRECTION...!

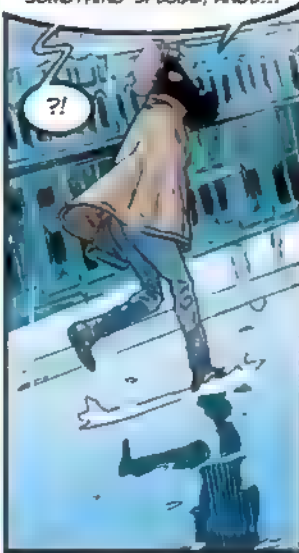




WHAT A GREAT IDEA TO  
MAKE ME GO ACROSS  
TOWN ON FOOT IN ALL  
THIS RAIN!



THIS PRESENT BETTER BE  
SOMETHING SPECIAL, ANGE...



ALL THAT RAIN  
MIGHT NOT HAVE  
BEEN NORMAL, BUT IT  
SUDDENLY STOPPING IS  
JUST AS WEIRD...!



EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU AMELIA?



I WAS WAITING  
FOR YOU .

'CUZ I HAVE TO  
GET GOING.

HOW'D YOU  
KNOW WHO I  
WAS?



YOUR BOYFRIEND REALLY  
HAS THE HOTS FOR YOU!



YOU'RE THE  
FIRST PERSON  
WITH ONE ARM  
I'VE SEEN ON  
THIS STREET  
ALL MORNING!



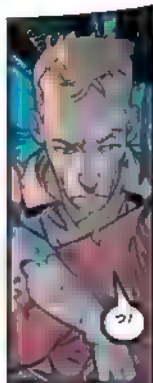
...BECAUSE THIS  
IS ONE HELL OF  
A GIFT!



OH, WOW!

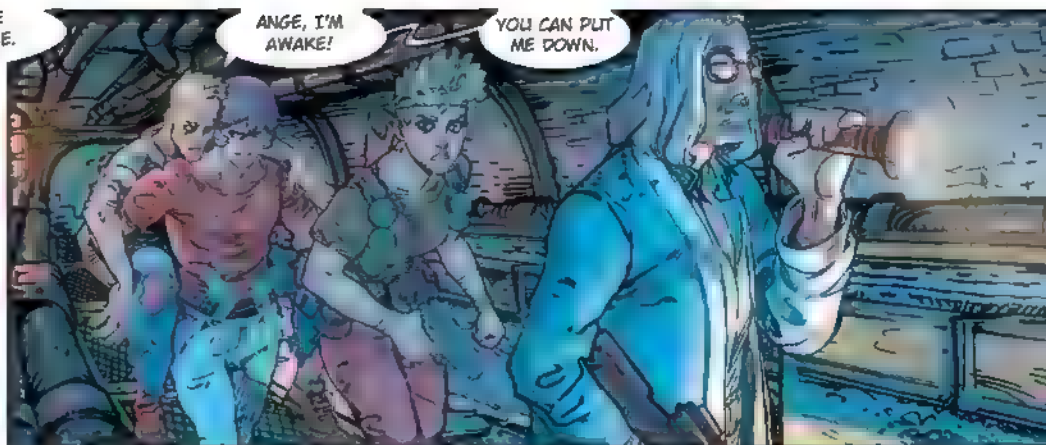


LET'S HURRY UP, THE PASSAGE ISN'T FAR. ONCE WE'RE INSIDE WE'LL BE ABLE TO BREATHE A LITTLE.



ANGE, I'M AWAKE!

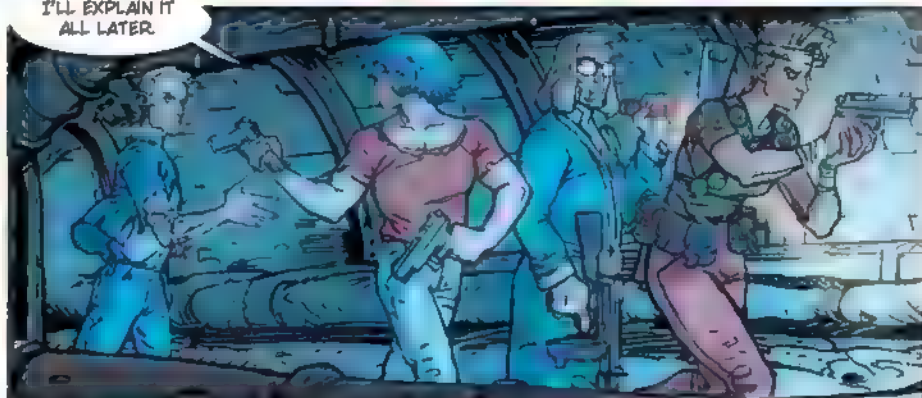
YOU CAN PUT ME DOWN.



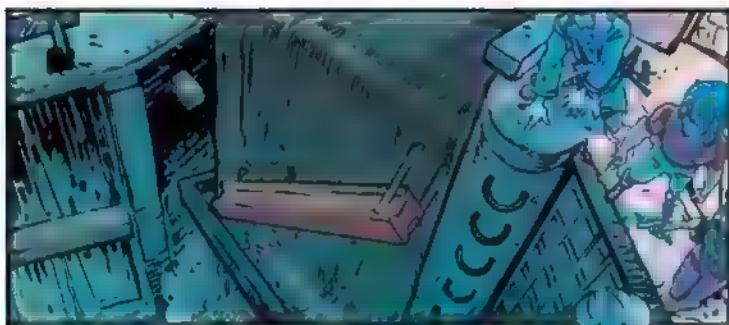
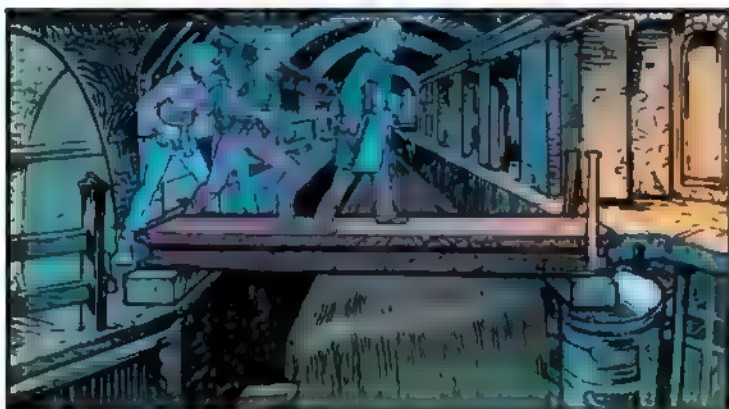
THANK YOU. WHERE ARE WE? WHAT HAPPENED?



I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL LATER.



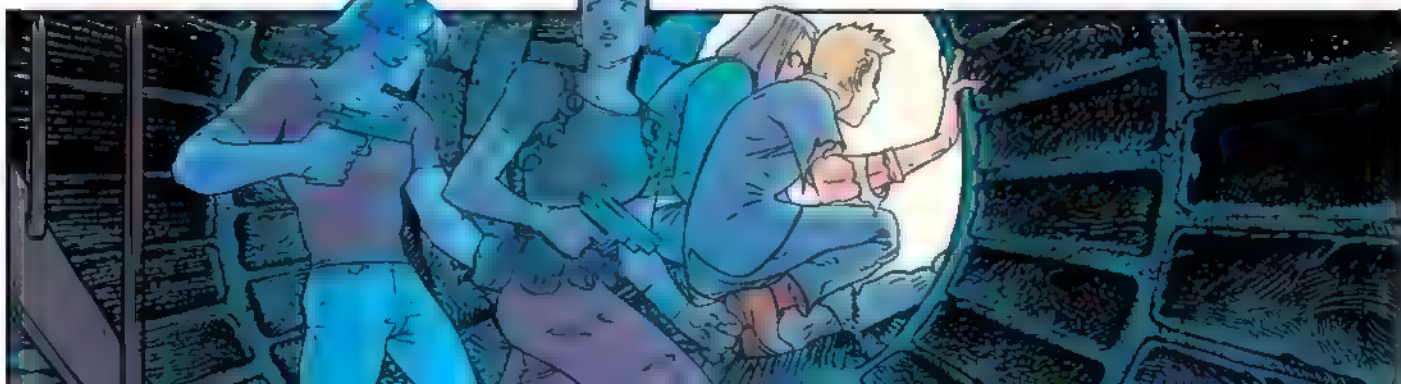
WE DON'T HAVE TIME. WE CAN'T STAY HERE.



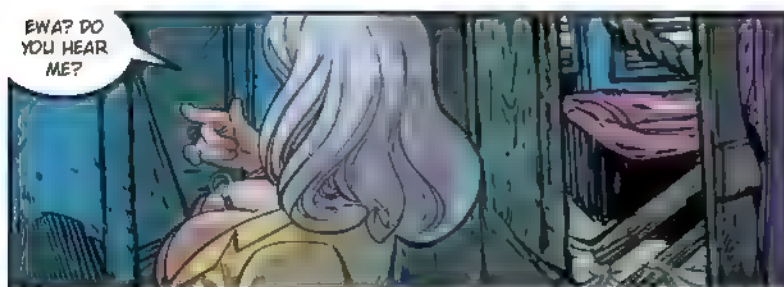
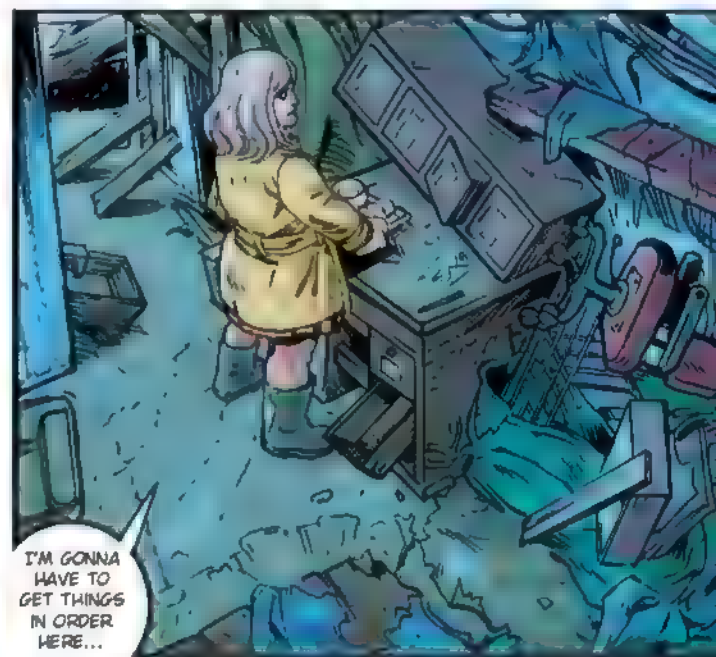
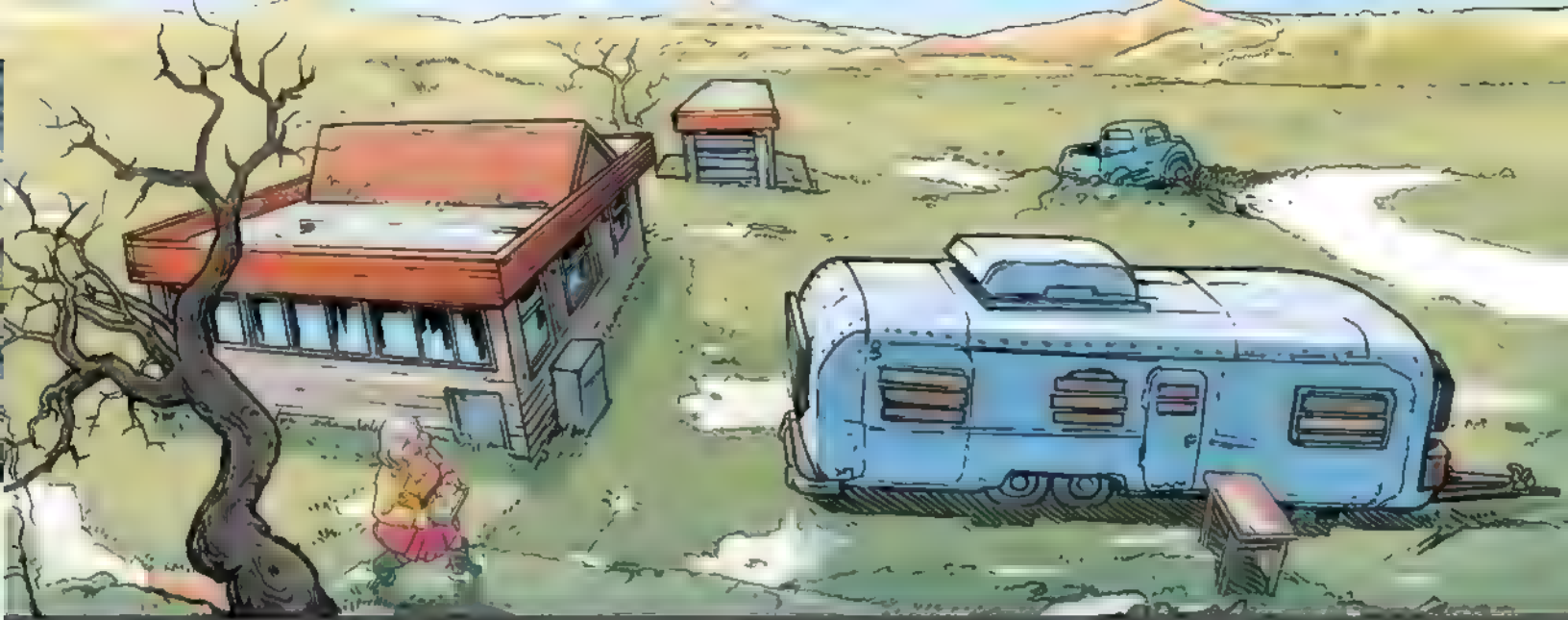
IS IT THIS WAY?



YES... THROUGH HERE WE'LL PASS THROUGH THE CITY'S OLD SEWERS. IT'S ABANDONED... NOBODY EVER COMES HERE.

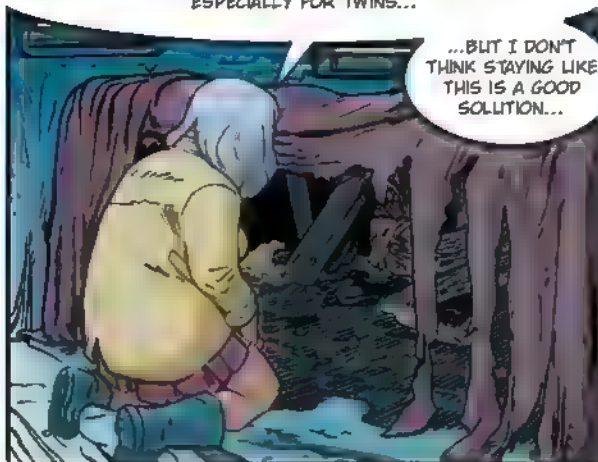








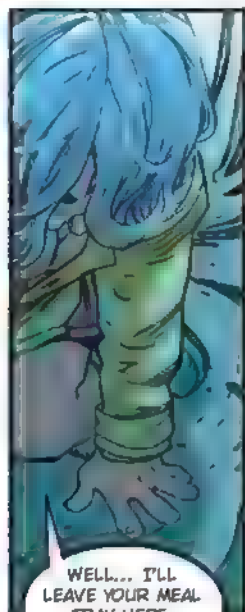
I KNOW IT'S HARD... TO LOSE YOUR SISTER...  
ESPECIALLY FOR TWINS...



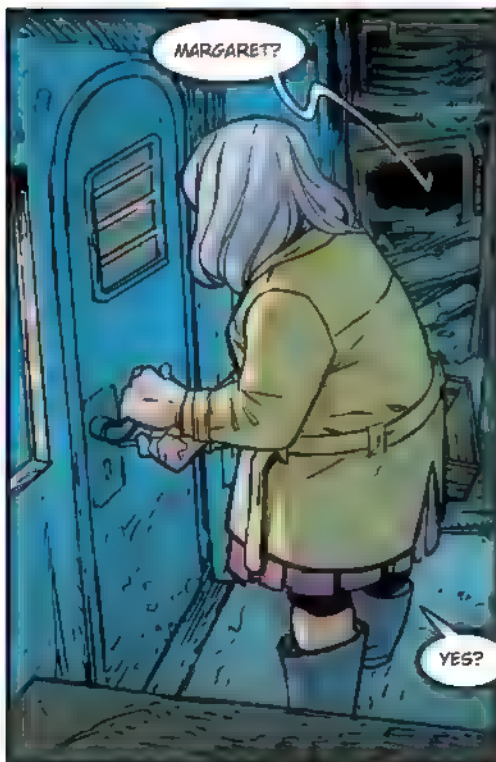
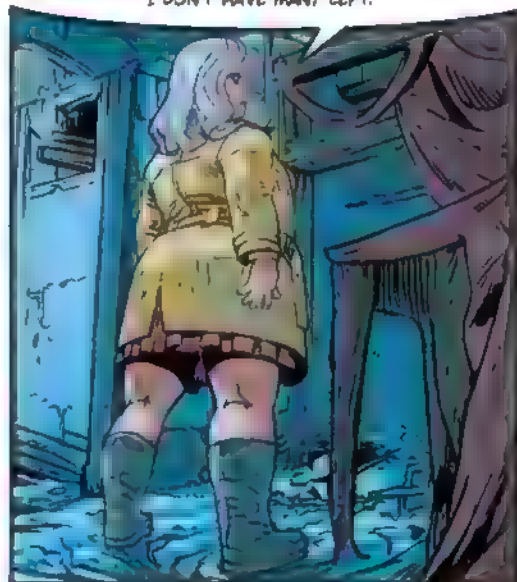
IT'S LIKE YOU'VE  
LOST YOUR  
HUMANITY...



I ADMIT THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME EITHER. I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING. BUT IF YOU'RE WILLING  
TO TALK TO ME...



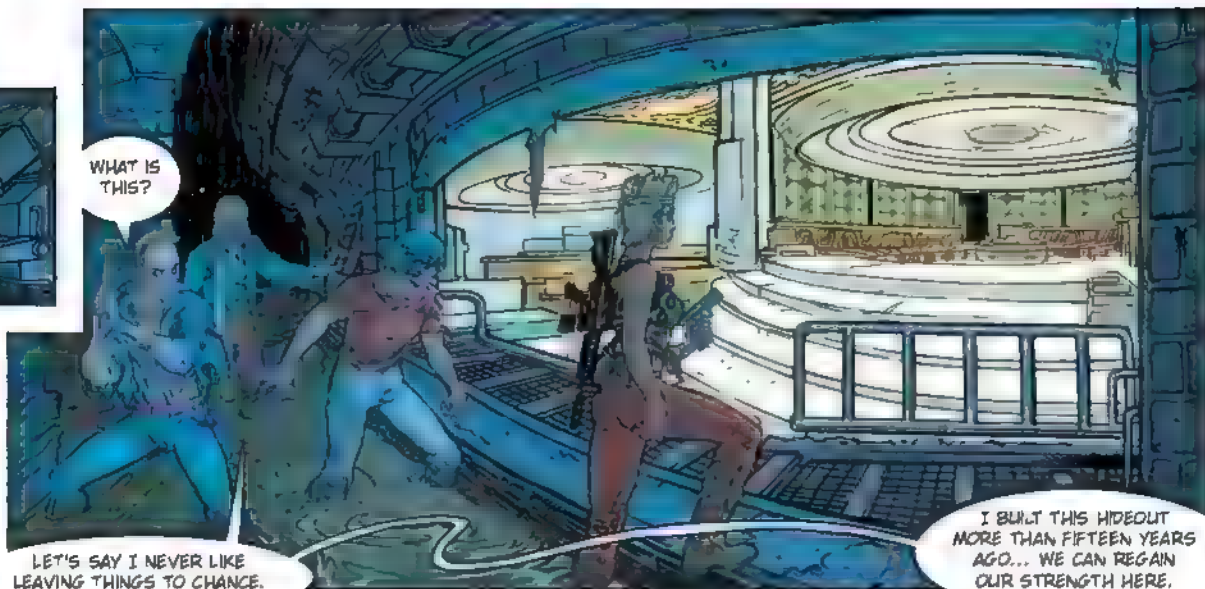
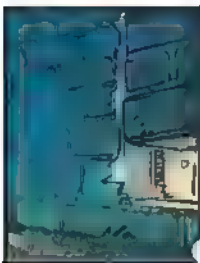
TRY NOT TO BREAK IT THIS TIME.  
I DON'T HAVE MANY LEFT.



OF COURSE,  
HONEY...







WHAT IS THIS?

LET'S SAY I NEVER LIKE LEAVING THINGS TO CHANCE.

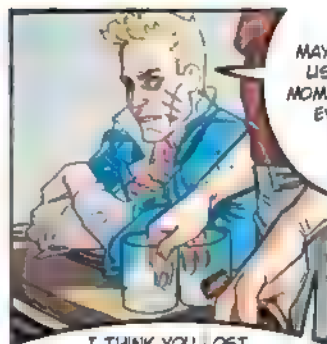
I BUILT THIS HIDEOUT MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO... WE CAN REGAIN OUR STRENGTH HERE.

FEEL FREE TO TAKE A SHOWER AND FRESHEN UP. THERE ARE CLOTHES IN THE BATHROOM CLOSET...



DIBS! I CAN'T STAND THIS STENCH ANYMORE!

I'LL SHOW YOU!



MAYBE YOU COULD USE THIS QUIET MOMENT TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING I MISSED...

I THINK YOU LOST CONSCIOUSNESS WHEN ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO AMBUSHED US THREW A FLASHBANG.



WE WERE IN A REALLY BAD SPOT THE MORE WE PUSHED THEM BACK, THE MORE OF THOSE GUYS SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE.

THEN THE ARCHIVIST ARRIVED. I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT OF HIM.

HE PUSHED US INTO A SIDE ROOM AND SHOWED US THE EMERGENCY EXIT.

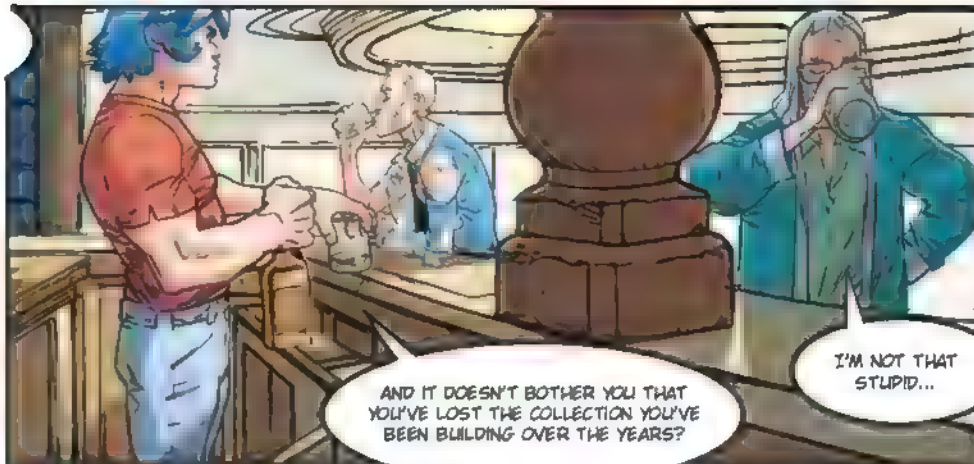


HE TRIGGERED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING TO COVER OUR ESCAPE ... BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF THOSE GUYS WERE CAUGHT IN IT OR IF THEY MANAGED TO FOLLOW US.



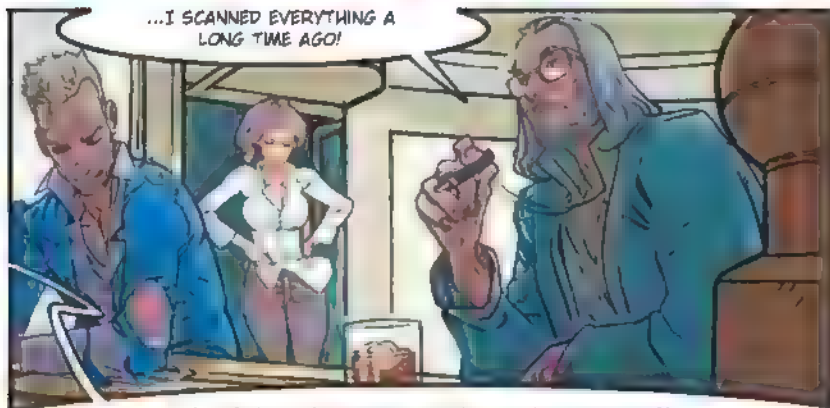


IN FACT, THE EXPLOSION WAS INTENDED TO DESTROY THE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY. I DON'T WANT THAT KNOWLEDGE TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.



AND IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU THAT YOU'VE LOST THE COLLECTION YOU'VE BEEN BUILDING OVER THE YEARS?

I'M NOT THAT STUPID...



...I SCANNED EVERYTHING A LONG TIME AGO!

WHAT? THEN WHY DID YOU HOARD ALL THOSE BOOKS?!

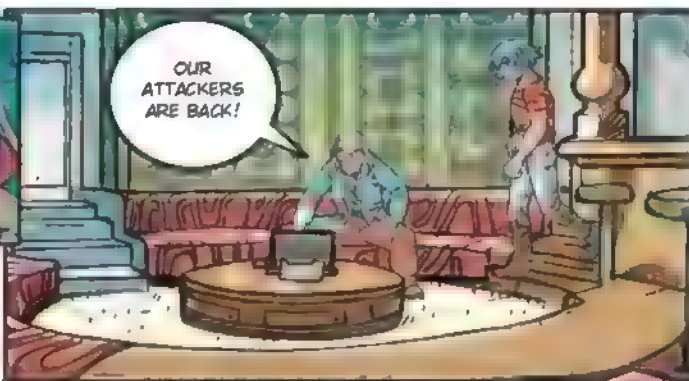
BECAUSE LIBRARIES ARE CLASSY! YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THEY LOOK NICER THAN AN UGLY USB DRIVE!



RIDICULOUS!



WHAT IS THAT?!



OUR ATTACKERS ARE BACK!



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOW DID THEY FIND US?!



THE DOOR WON'T HOLD FOREVER!

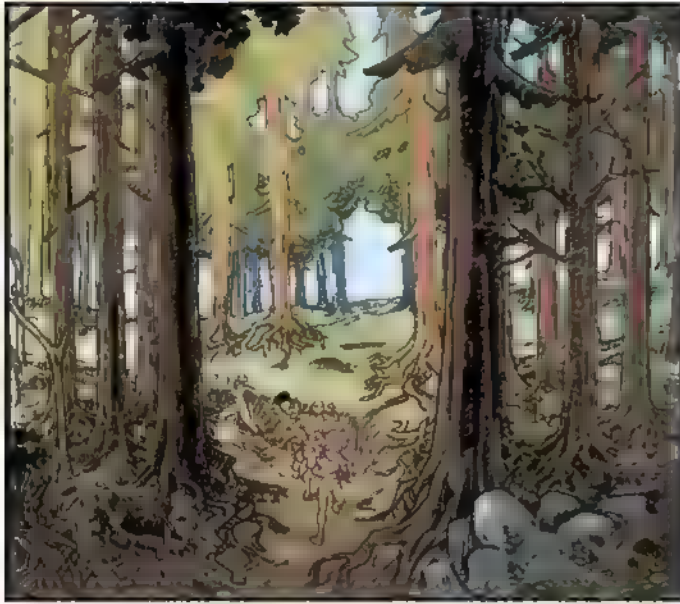
DO YOU HAVE WEAPONS HERE?

NOT REALLY...

IS THERE ANOTHER EXIT?

NO.



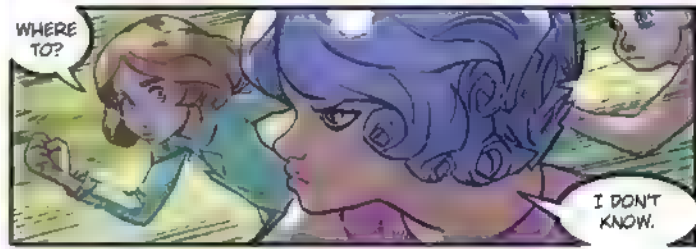


WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR THAT GUY?

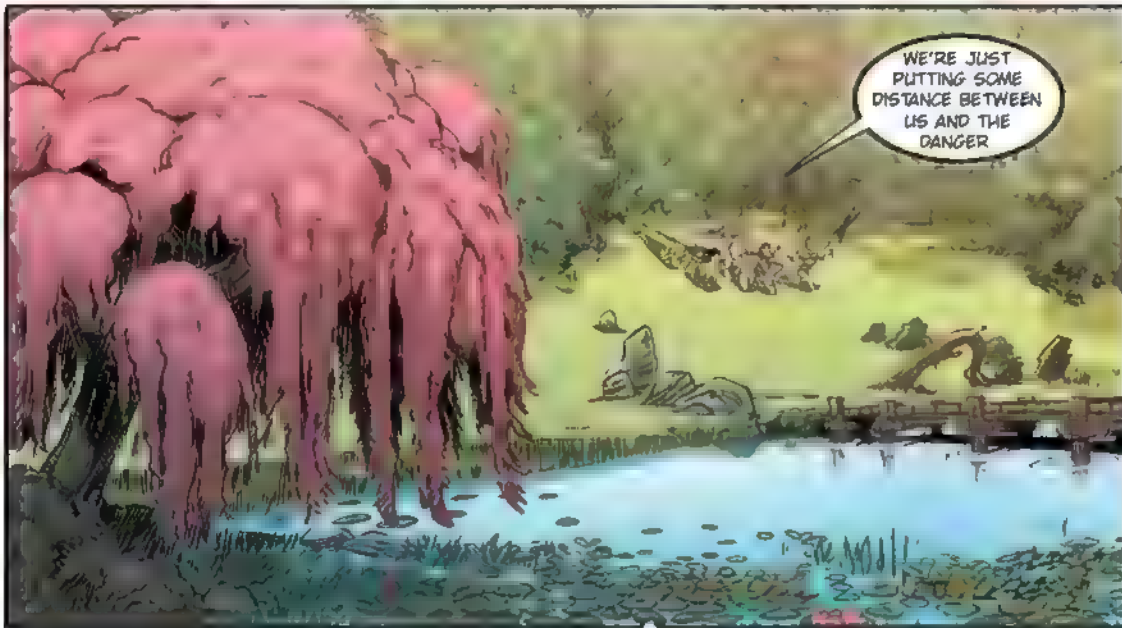
THE ANGEL? NO, I'M SURE WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND US AGAIN.



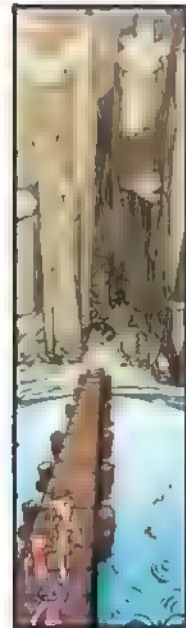
WHERE TO?



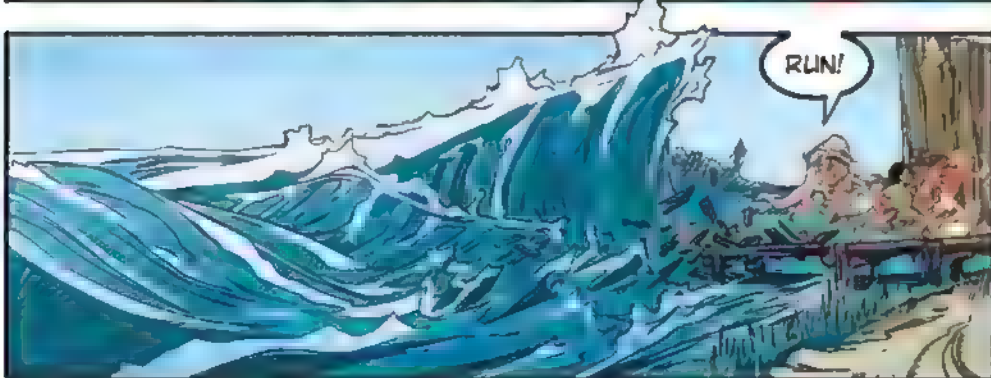
I DON'T KNOW.



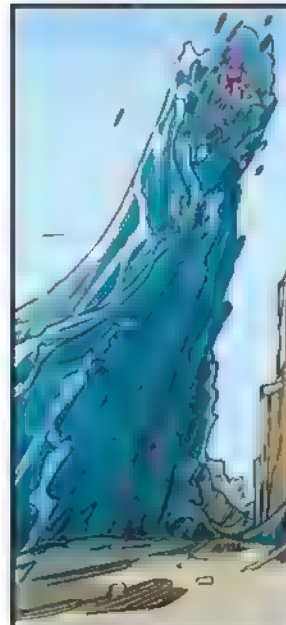
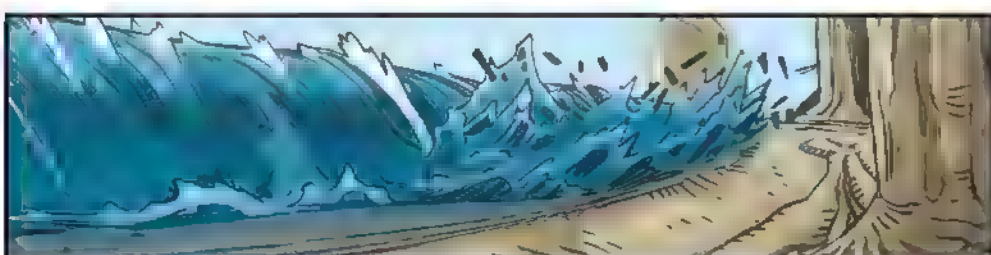
WE'RE JUST PUTTING SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THE DANGER



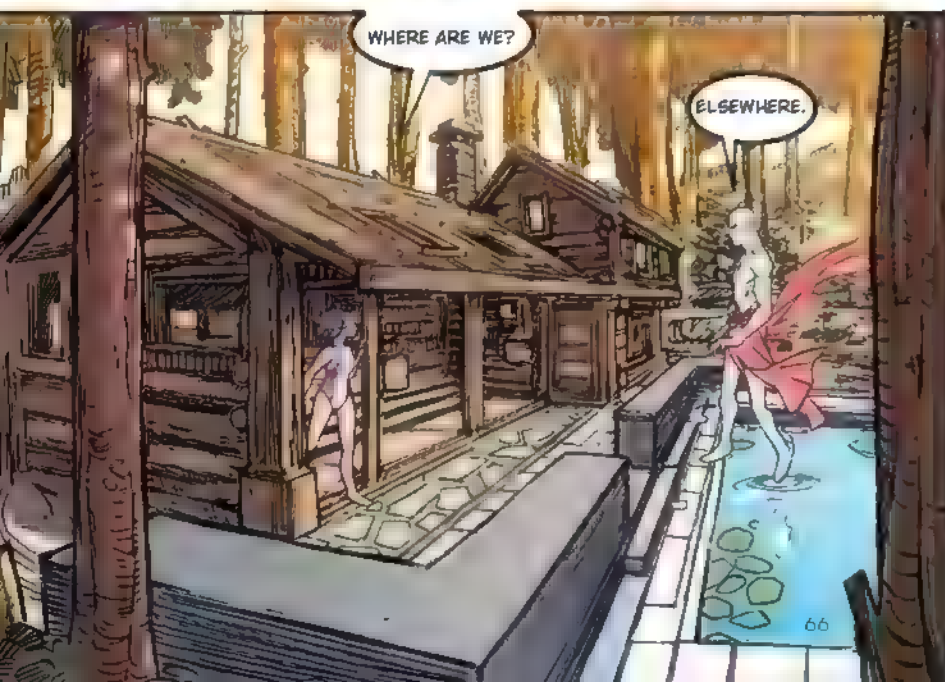
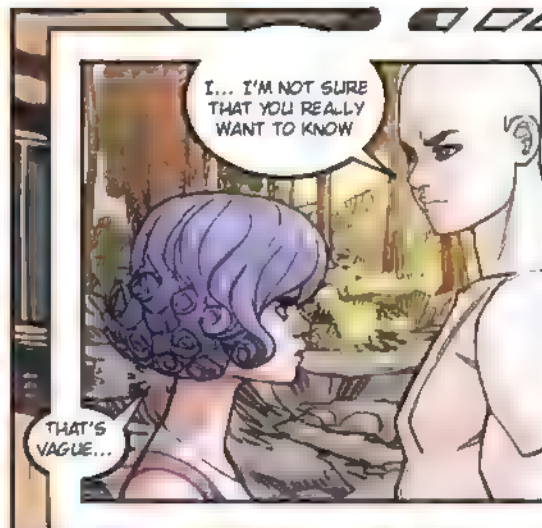
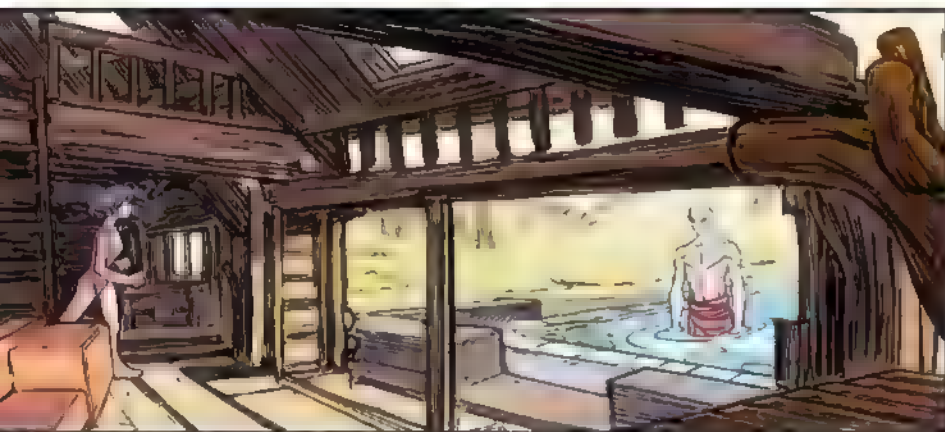
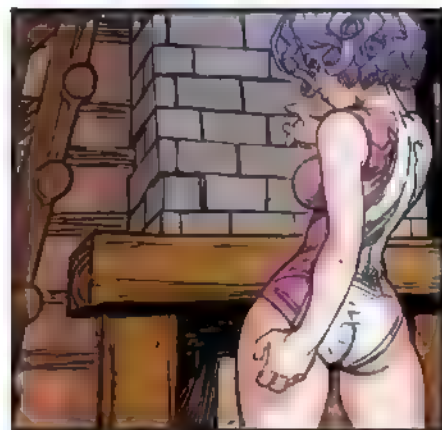
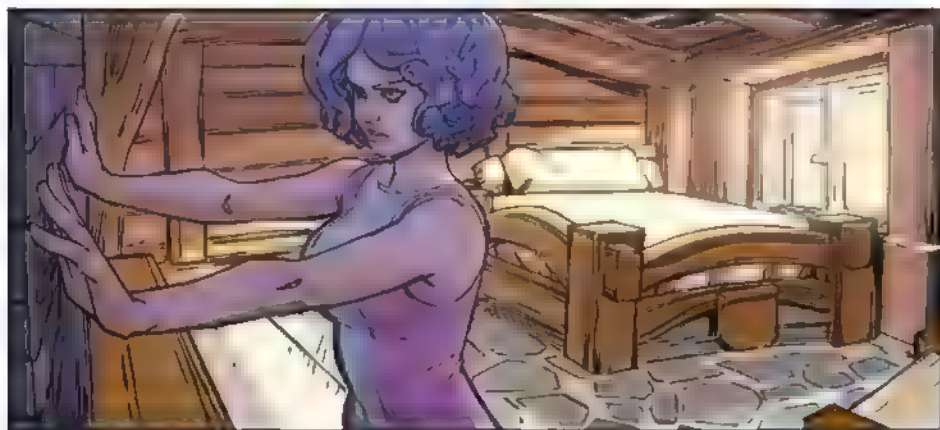
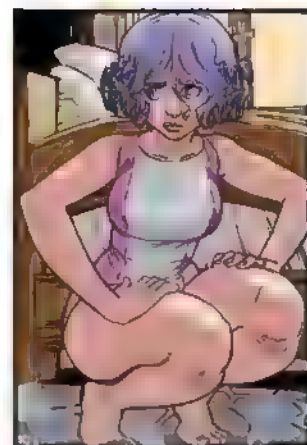
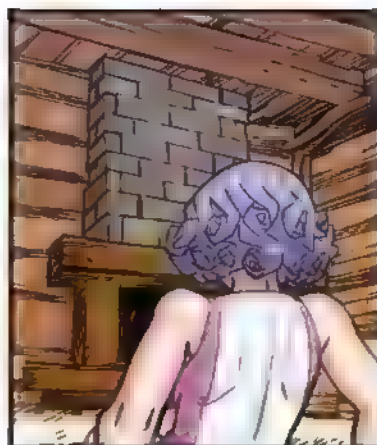
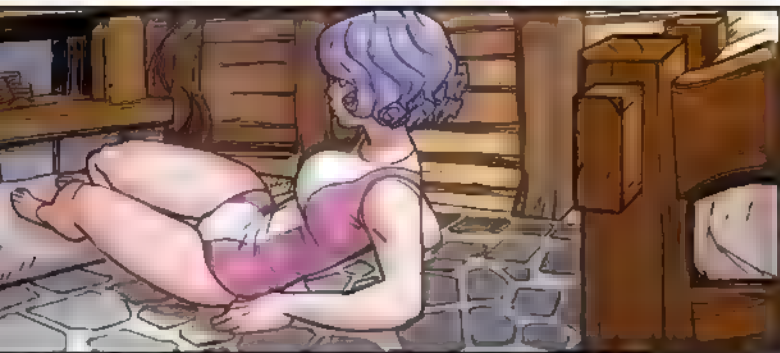
WATCH OUT!



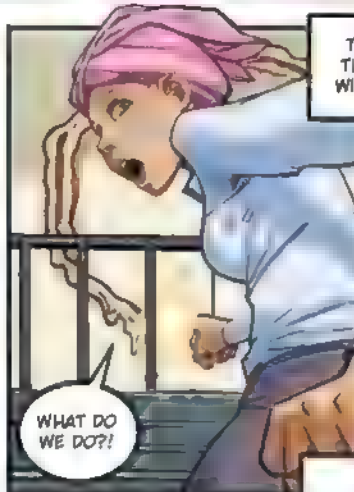
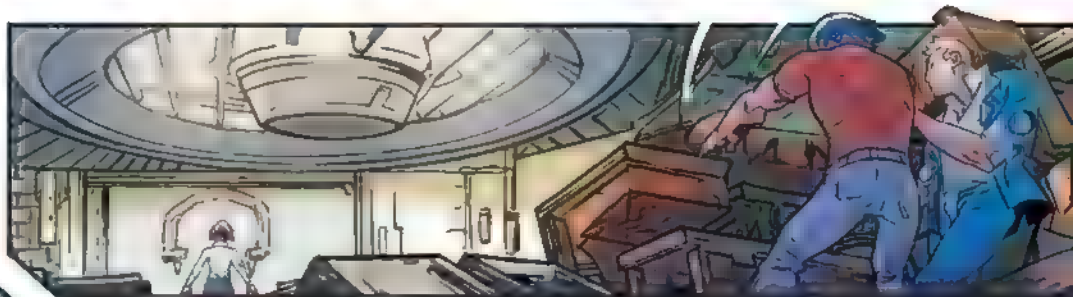
RUN!



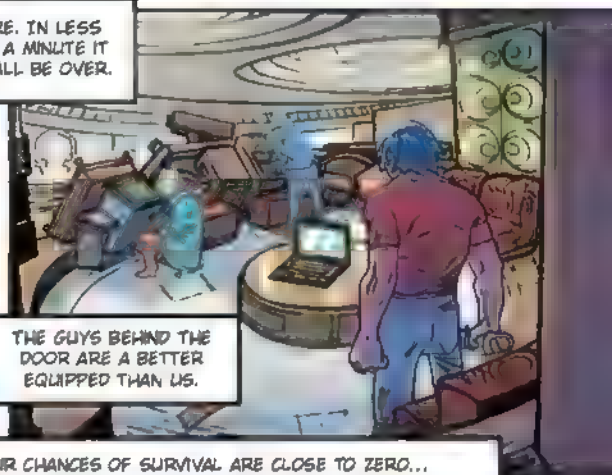




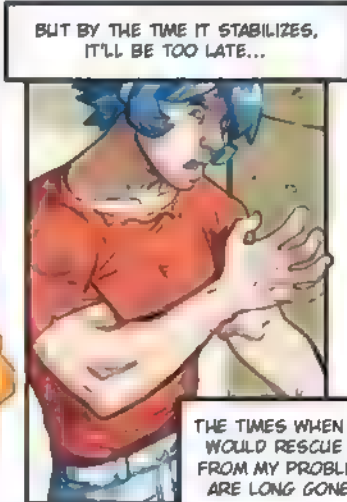




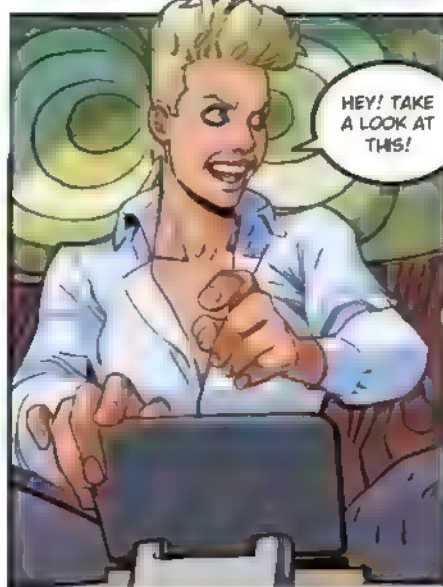
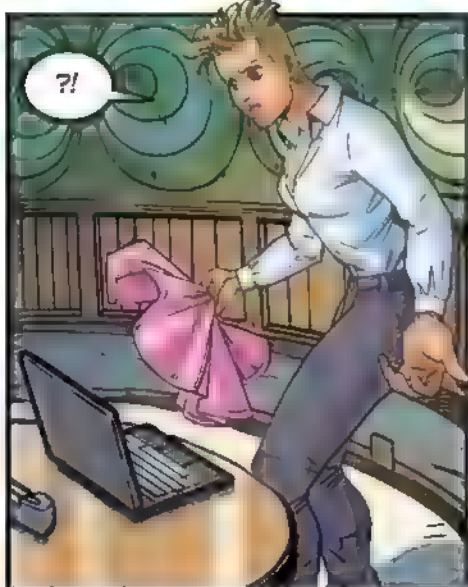
THERE. IN LESS THAN A MINUTE IT WILL ALL BE OVER.



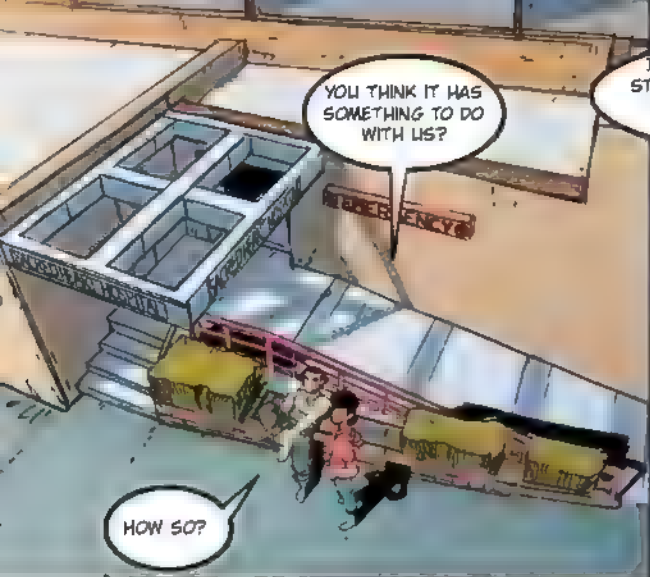
OUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE CLOSE TO ZERO...



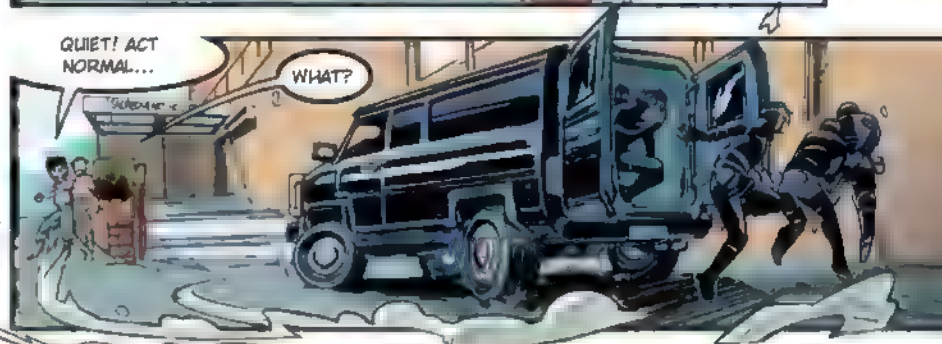
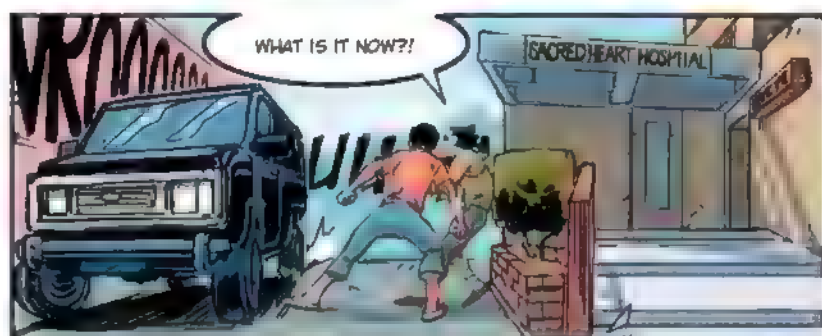
THE TIMES WHEN DAN WOULD RESCUE ME FROM MY PROBLEMS ARE LONG GONE...







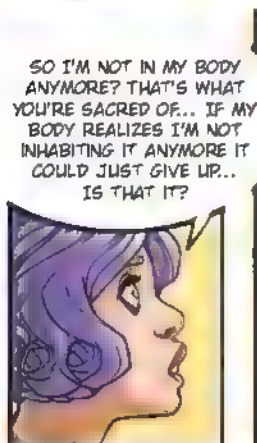
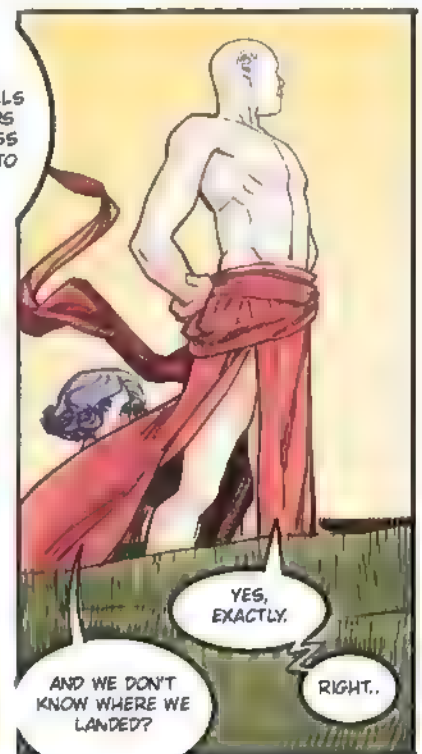
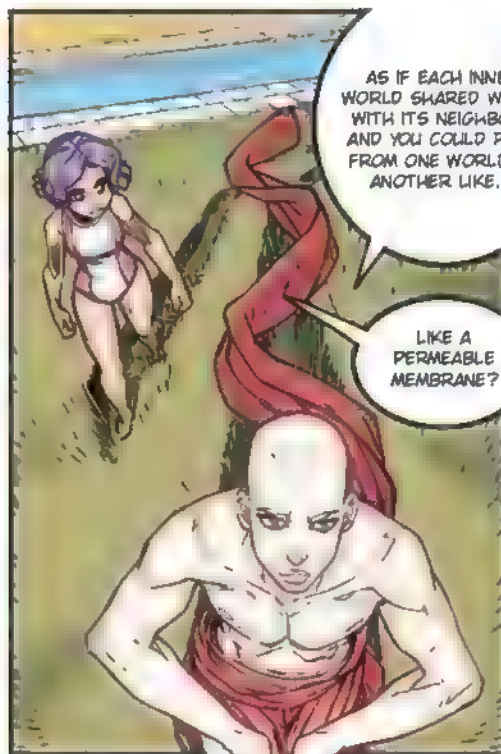
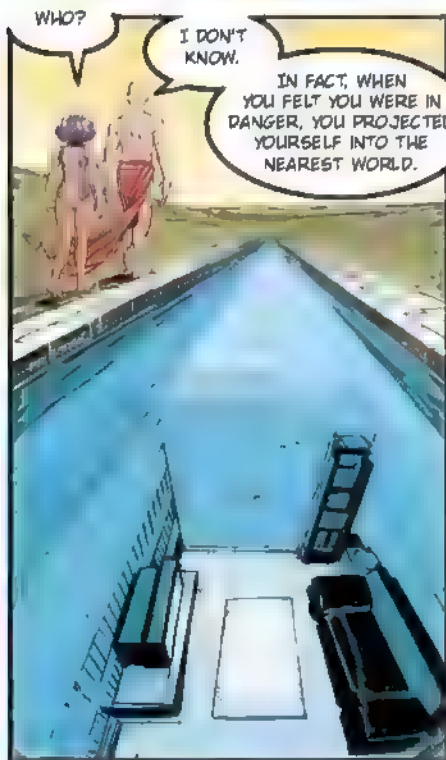
I DON'T KNOW. I WAS JUST THINKING THE RAIN STARTED WHEN WE LOST OUR POWERS. IT STANDS TO REASON THAT IT STOPPING MIGHT BE CONNECTED...



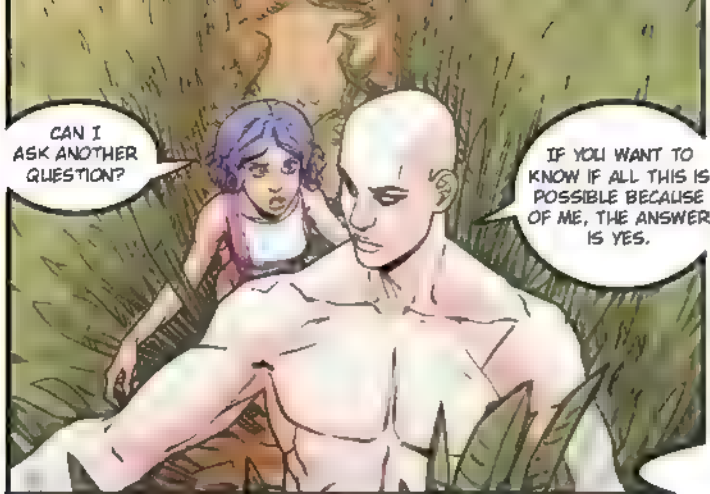




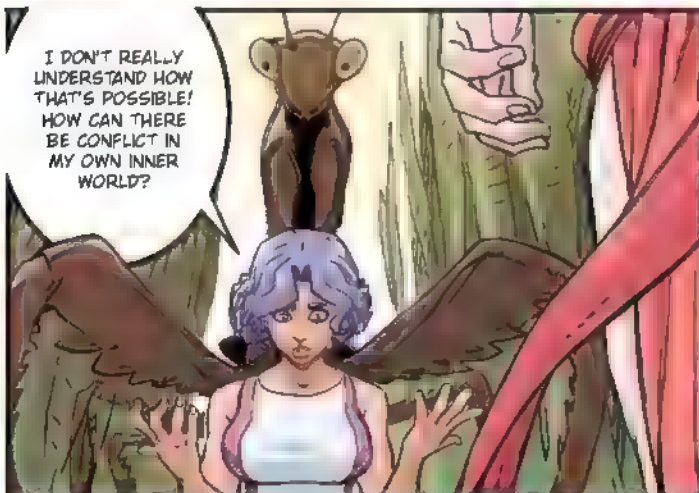
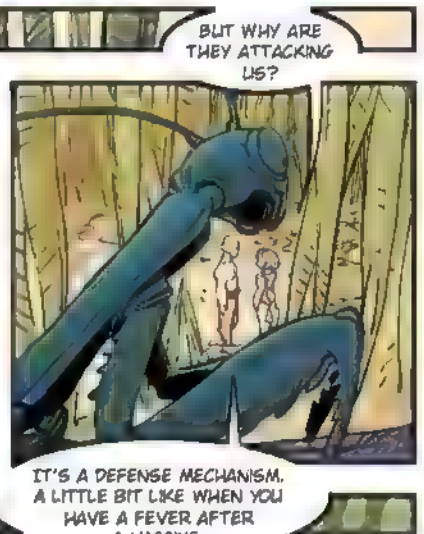
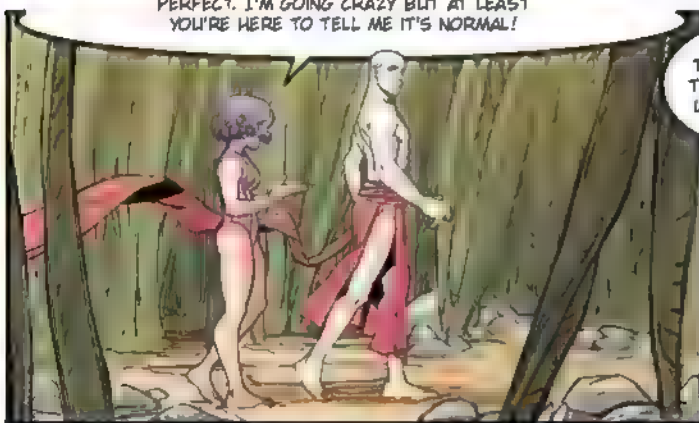
STOP I'M NOT SOME FRAGILE LITTLE THING. I KNOW I'M IN A COMA. YOU ALREADY TOLD ME.



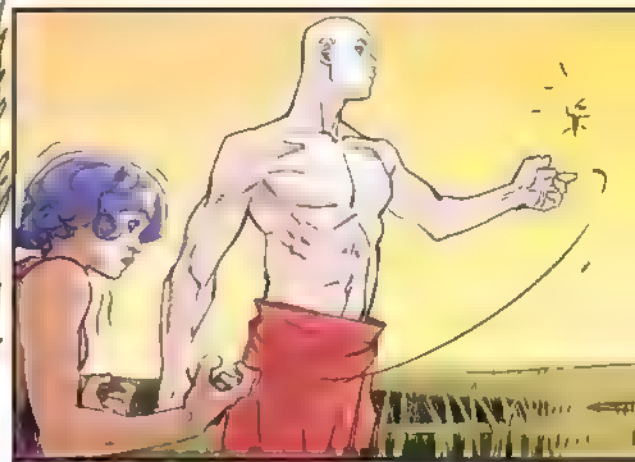
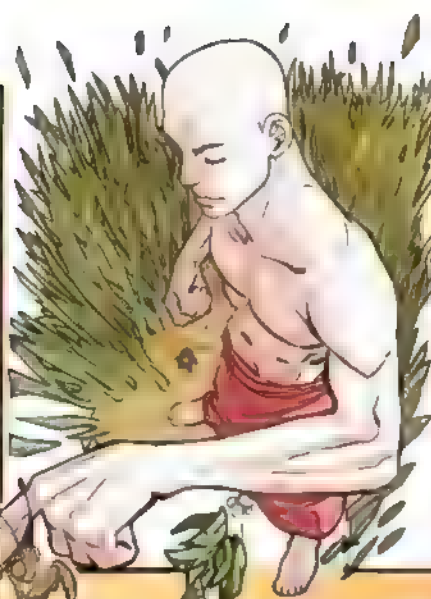
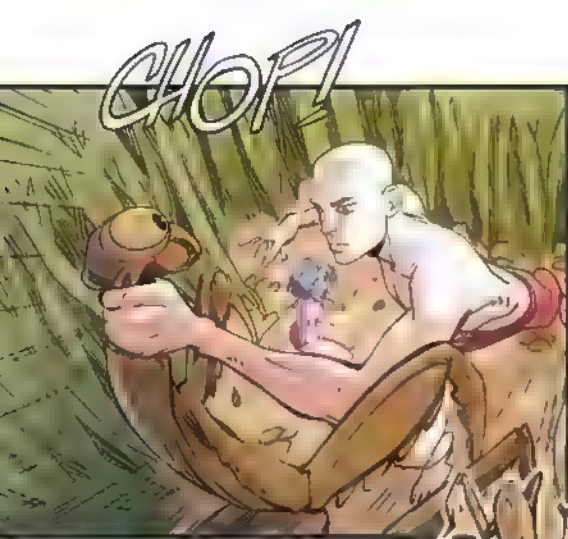




NO, I'M FROM YOUR WORLD, AFTER ALL...  
I'M IN SEVERAL WORLDS AT THE SAME TIME BUT THE REPRESENTATION OF ME THAT'S STANDING BEFORE YOU COMES FROM YOUR MIND.  
SO I HAVE A CERTAIN INHERENT ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND YOU.



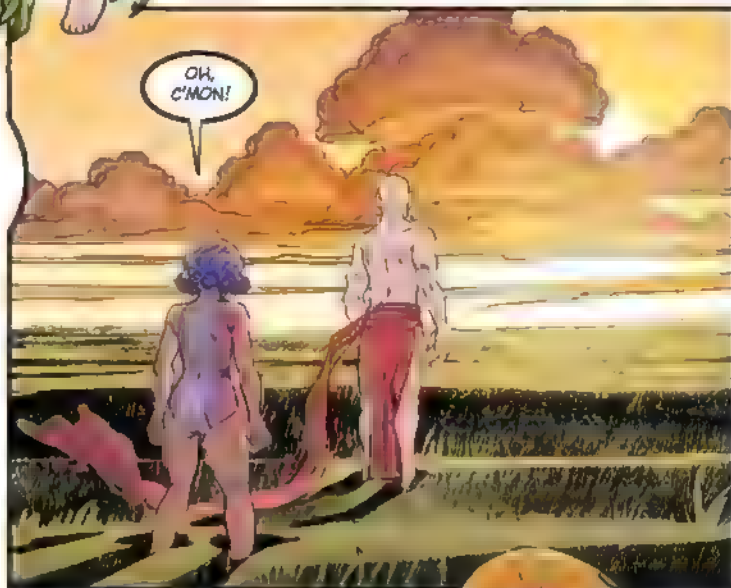




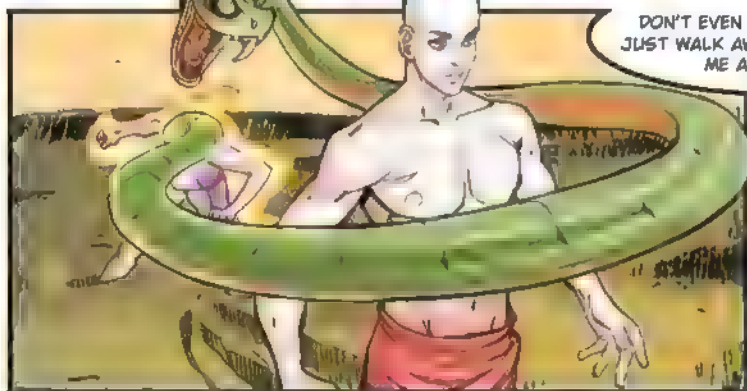
OKAY, SO YOU REPRESENT THE TOTEMS AND THEY'RE NOT ALL IN AGREEMENT WITH THE STEPS YOU'VE TAKEN TO KEEP US ALIVE. DO I HAVE THE GIST OF IT?



?!



OH, C'MON!



DON'T EVEN TRY IT! YOU CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY TO AVOID GIVING ME AN ANSWER

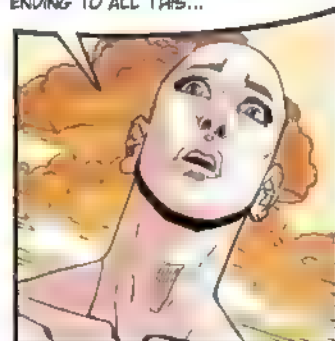


WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?!

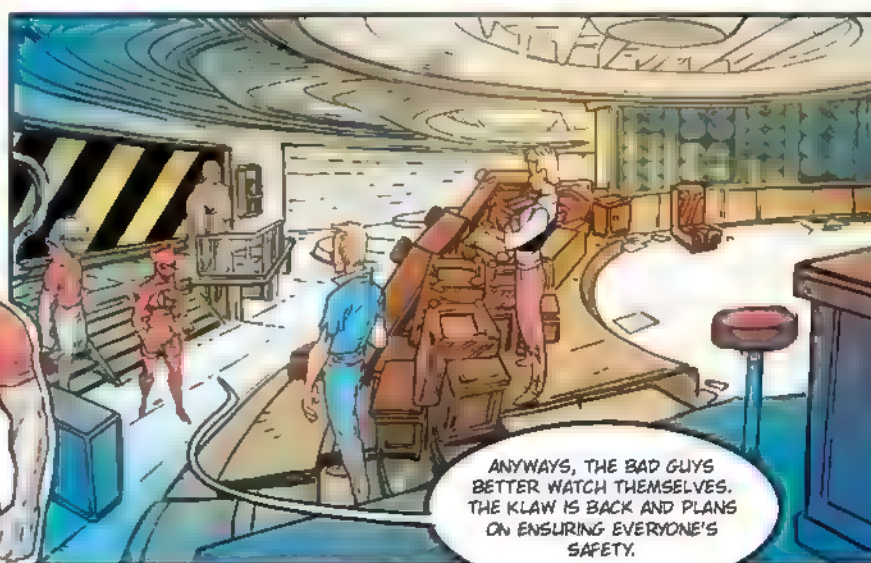
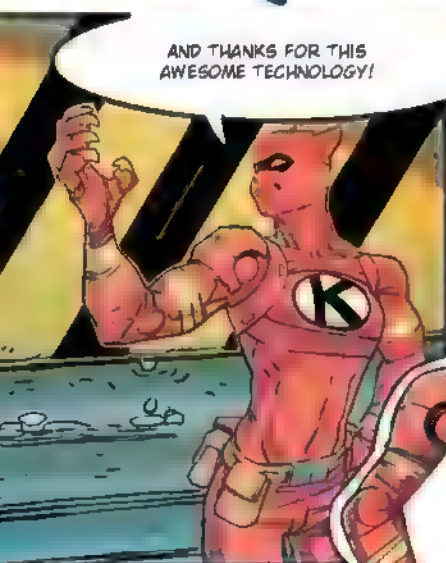
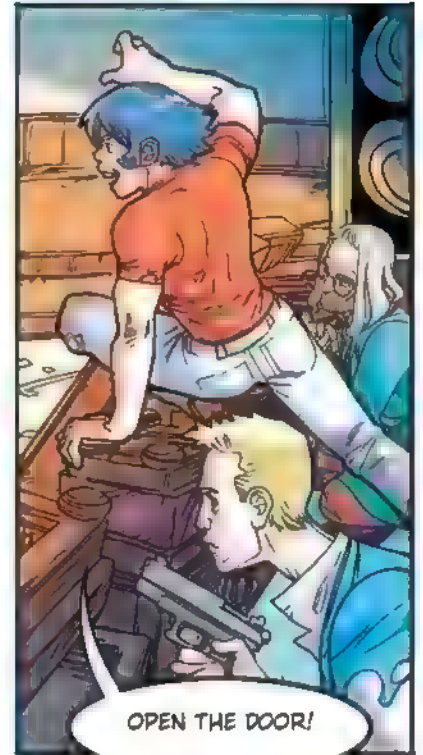
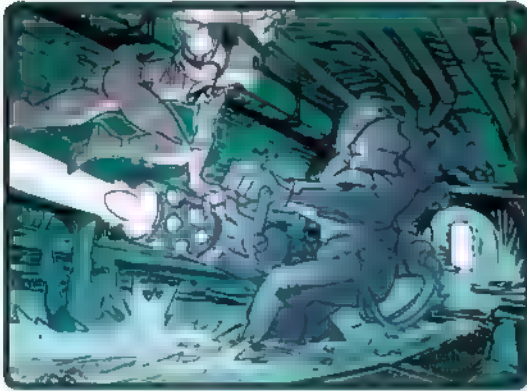
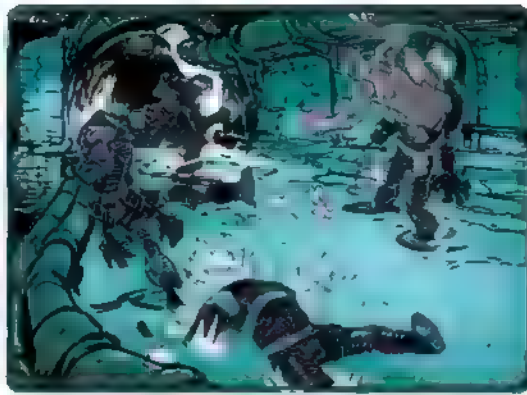
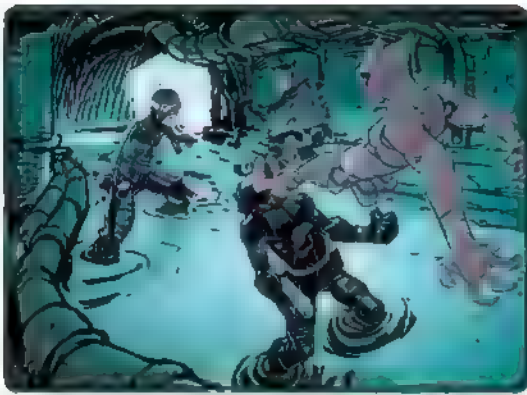


I WANTED TO PROTECT YOU AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE! NOW WE'RE ALL PAYING THE PRICE...

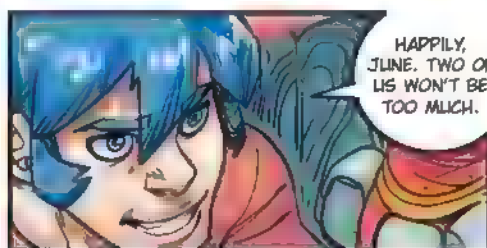
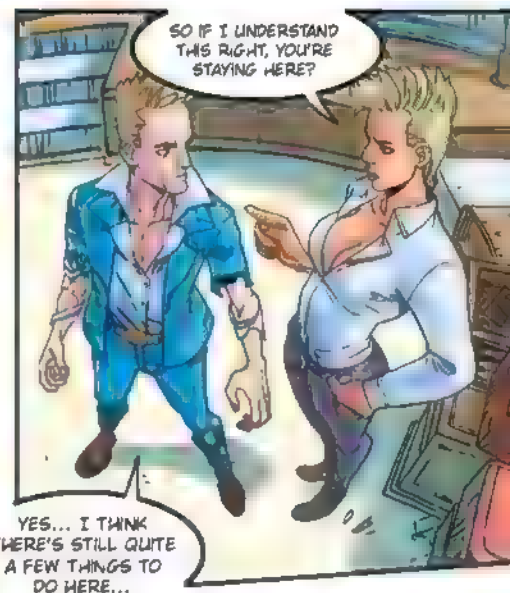
IN ANOTHER WORLD, I'M TRYING TO CONVINCE EVERYONE TO FIND A HAPPY ENDING TO ALL THIS...



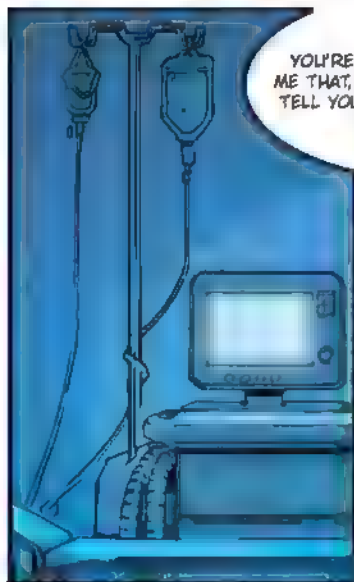




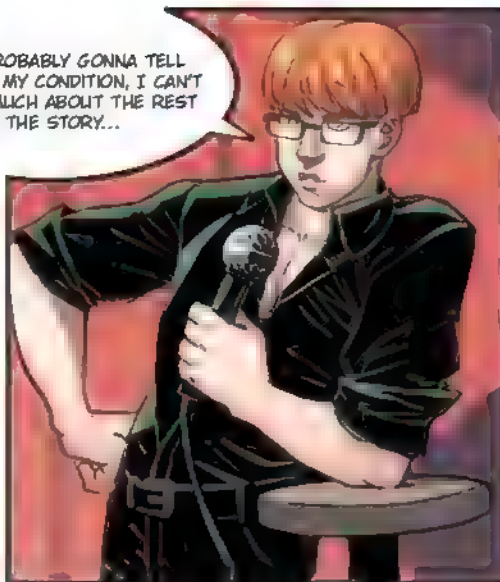




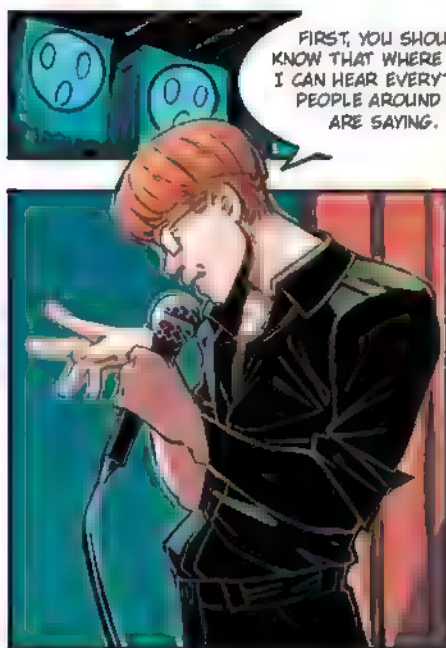




YOU'RE PROBABLY GONNA TELL ME THAT, IN MY CONDITION, I CAN'T TELL YOU MUCH ABOUT THE REST OF THE STORY...



EXCEPT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING.

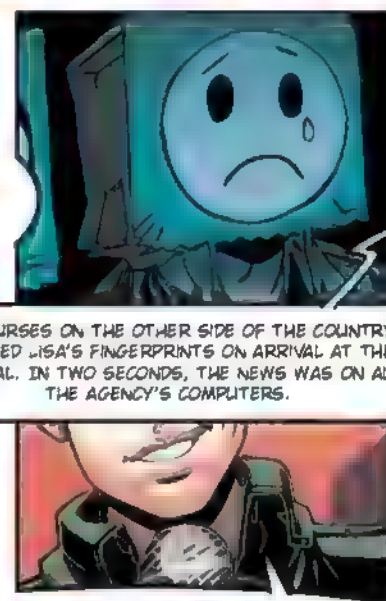


FIRST, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WHERE I AM, I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE SAYING.



WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER CAME INTO MY ROOM TO TALK TO BOZULICH, I DIDN'T MISS A WORD OF IT.

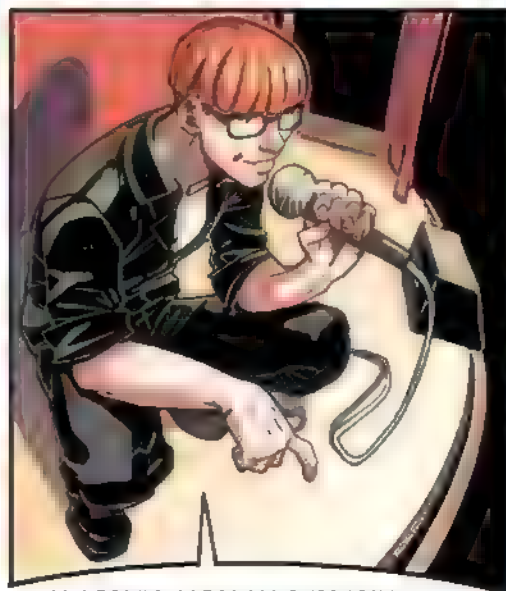
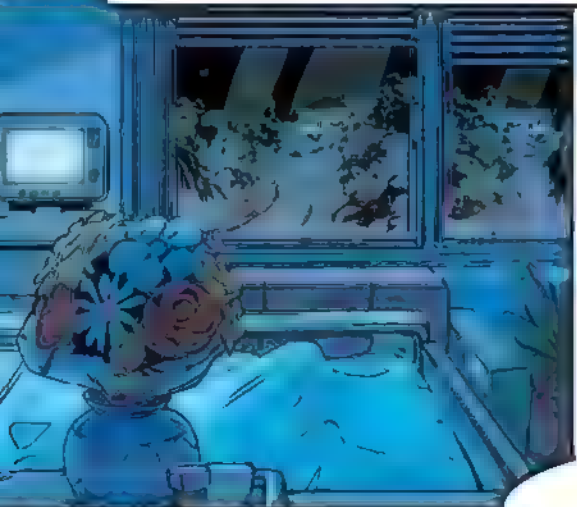
HE WAS SO EXCITED, I COULD PRACTICALLY SEE THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE



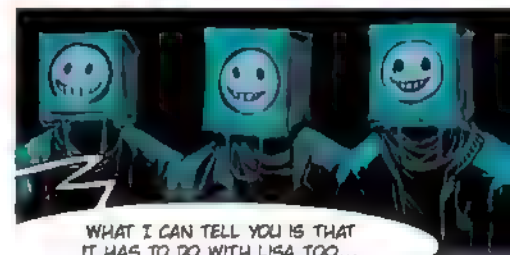
THE NURSES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COUNTRY SCANNED LISA'S FINGERPRINTS ON ARRIVAL AT THE HOSPITAL. IN TWO SECONDS, THE NEWS WAS ON ALL THE AGENCY'S COMPUTERS.

BUT IF I'M RIGHT, THAT INFORMATION WAS ALSO SHARED TO THE COMPUTER OF THE HACKER WHO WAS WATCHING US...

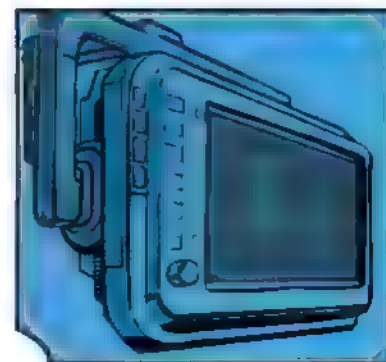
BOZULICH WAS SCARED OF ARRIVING AFTER THOSE SO-CALLED "NINJAS"... THE ONES THAT WERE AT SHAAZ'S. THE ONES WHO PUT ME IN THIS BED...



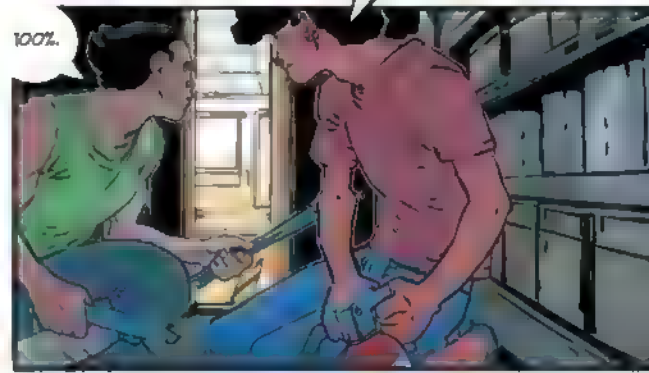
AS A RESULT, MY ROOM IS QUIET AGAIN... I MIGHT FEEL ALONE IF IT WASN'T FOR THE SECOND POINT I HAVE YET TO MENTION...



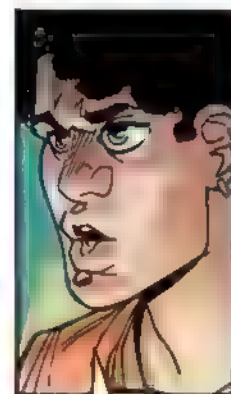
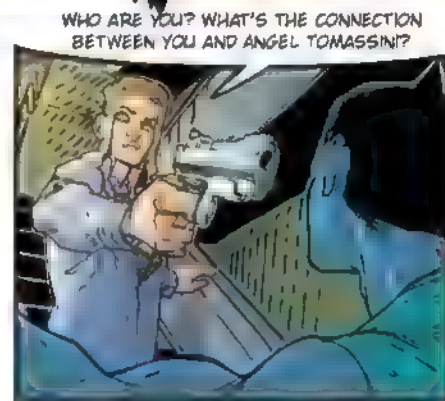
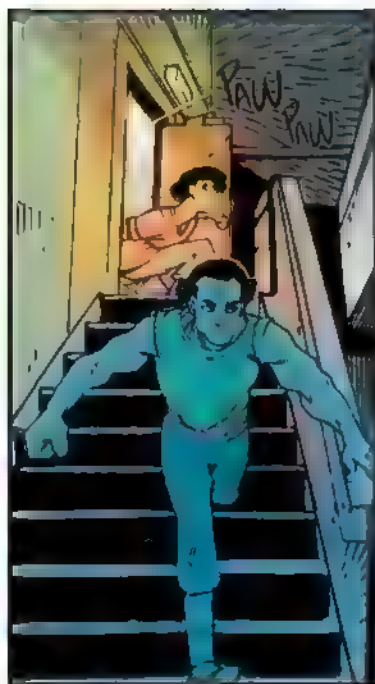
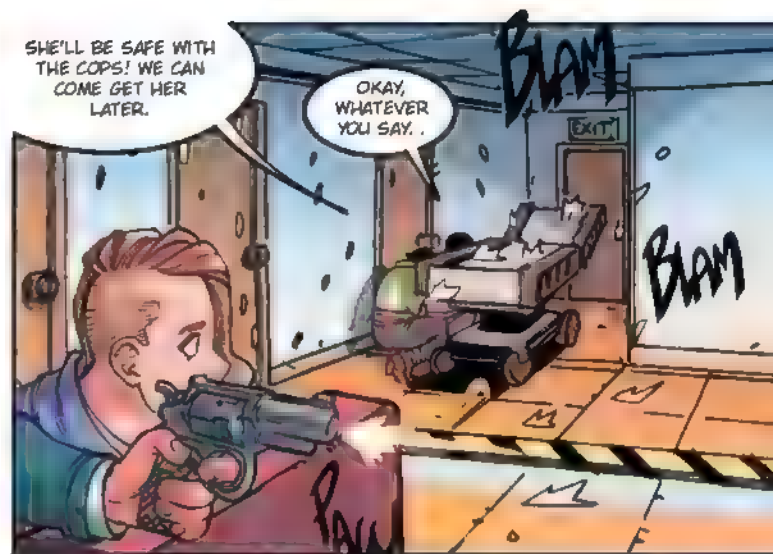
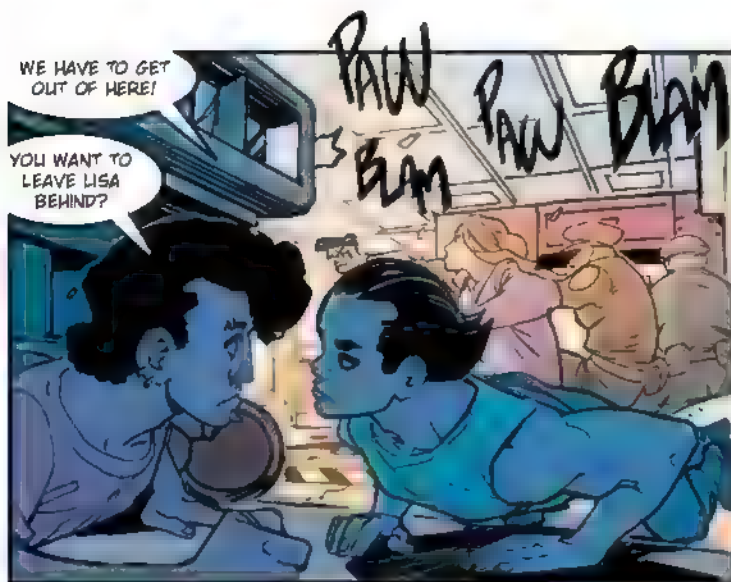
WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT IT HAS TO DO WITH LISA TOO...











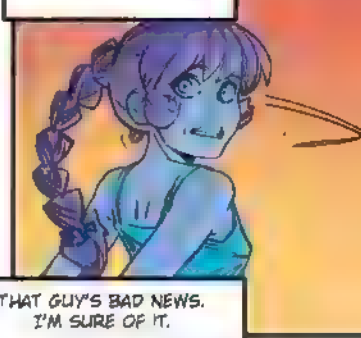




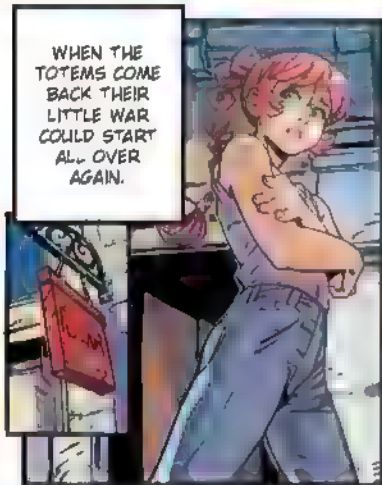
I WISH I WAS MORE  
CONFIDENT ABOUT THIS

AND IT WOULD'VE BEEN  
GOOD TO GET SOME REST.

BUT I CAN'T STAND HIS  
LAUGHTER ANYMORE.



THAT GUY'S BAD NEWS.  
I'M SURE OF IT.



WHEN THE  
TOTEMS COME  
BACK THEIR  
LITTLE WAR  
COULD START  
ALL OVER  
AGAIN.



AND I'M SURE THAT ANGE  
WOULDN'T LIKE TO HEAR THAT I'M  
HANGING AROUND THE BUFFALO.



ANGE... LOOK AT ME  
THINKING ABOUT HIM  
LIKE HE'S SOMEONE  
I CAN COUNT ON.



EITHER I'M GOING  
COMPLETELY CRAZY OR  
I'M IN A LOT OF DANGER.



TAKING A  
STROLL, LITTLE  
GIRL?



WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME INSTEAD,  
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.

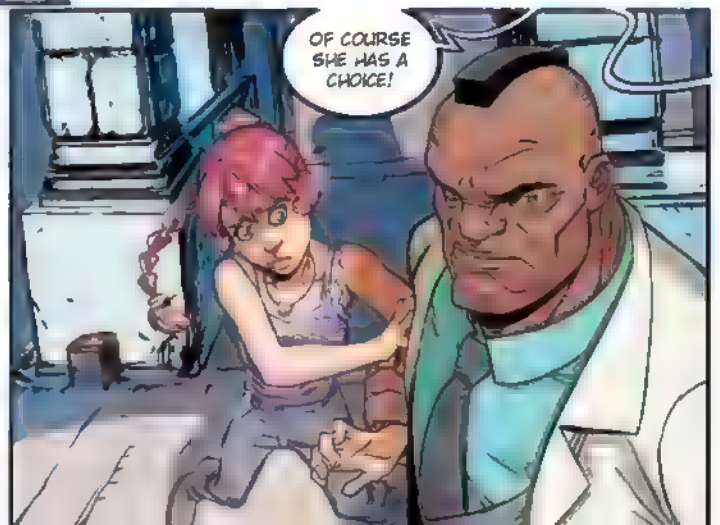
NO.

SAY THAT  
AGAIN?



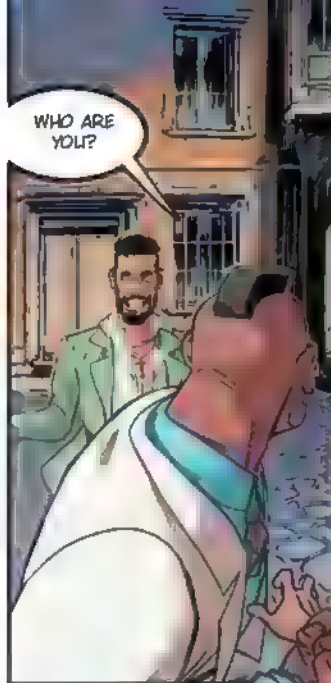
I DON'T WANT TO GO  
BACK WITH YOU!

OH?! YOU THINK YOU  
HAVE A CHOICE?

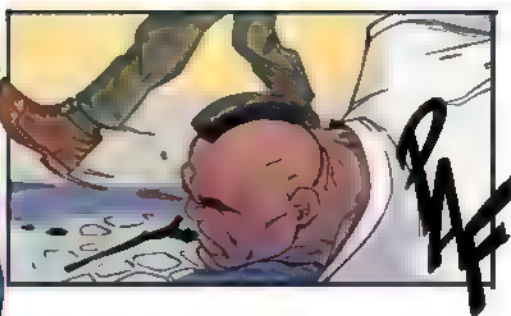
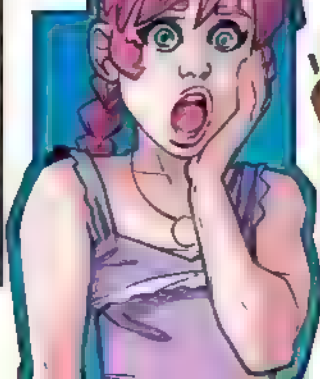
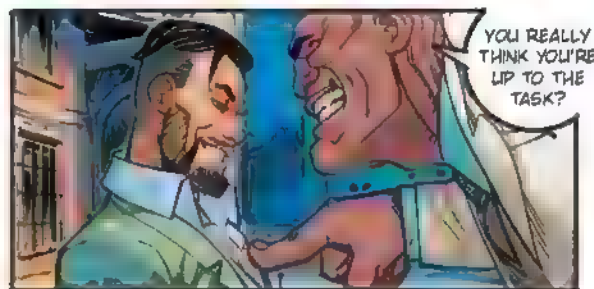


OF COURSE  
SHE HAS A  
CHOICE!





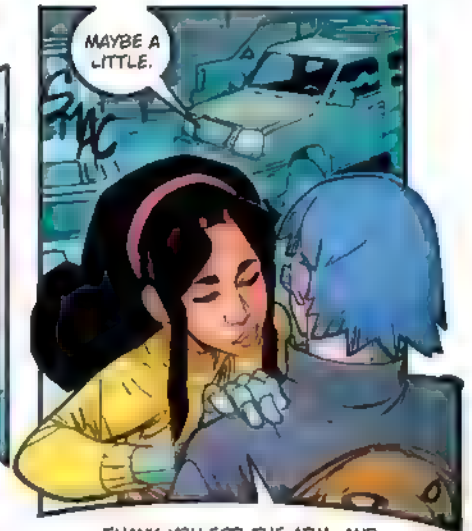
THEN TELL ME, RUNT: WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME? BECAUSE FOR A GUARDIAN, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE ALL THAT PRESENT.







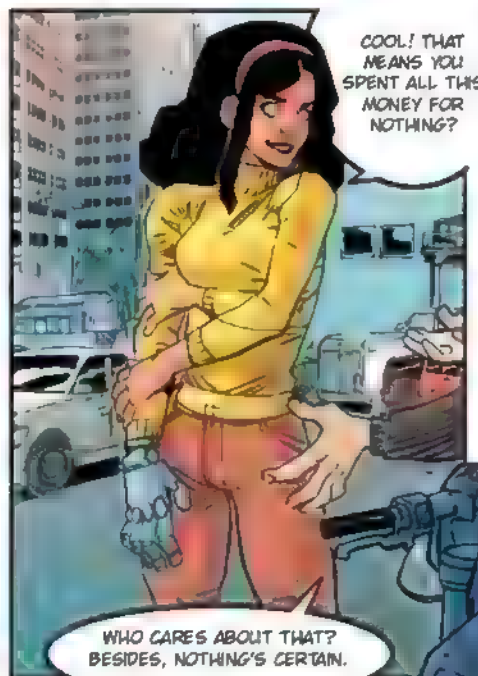
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THIS TOY SO THAT YOU COULD TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS.



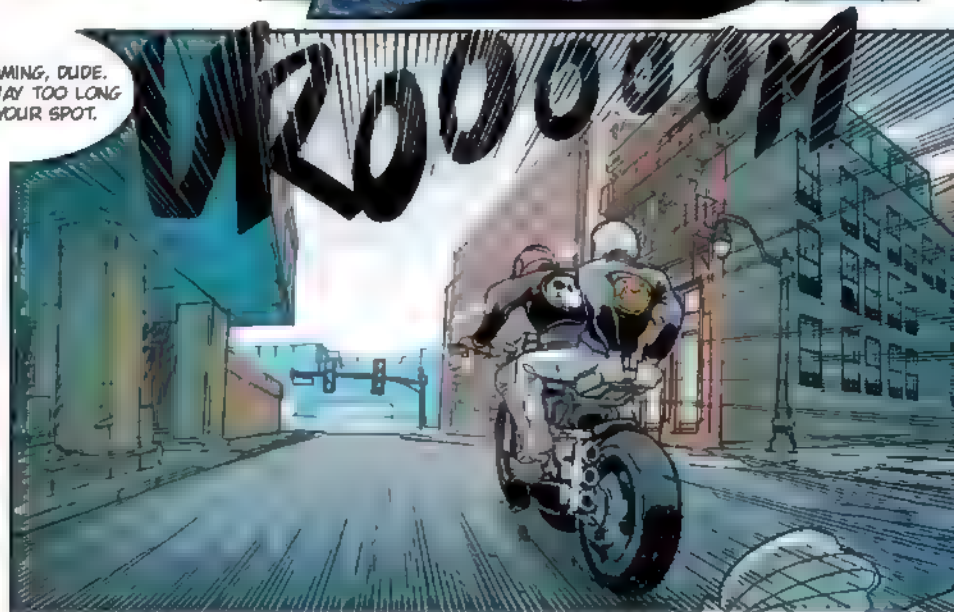
THANK YOU FOR THE ARM. AND FOR STAYING. I KNOW YOU WERE ITCHING TO GO FIND EWA AND PALLA. WHAT YOU DID...



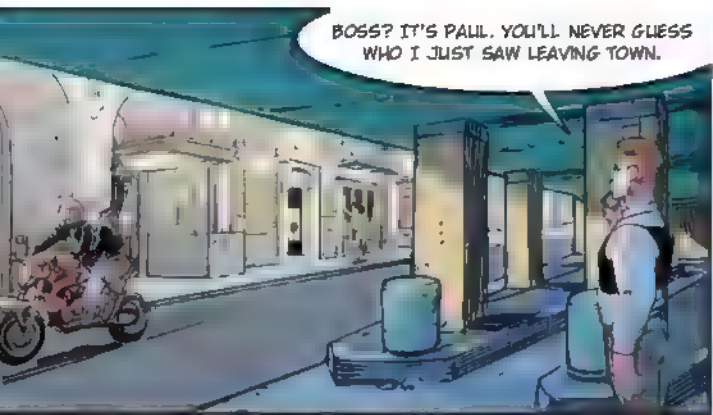
I HAVE TO TELL YOU: WHEN THOSE GUYS ATTACKED US EARLIER... FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, THE TIGER CAME BACK TO ME. NOT ENOUGH TO USE HIM, BUT I THINK HE'S STILL HERE.



WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? BESIDES, NOTHING'S CERTAIN.







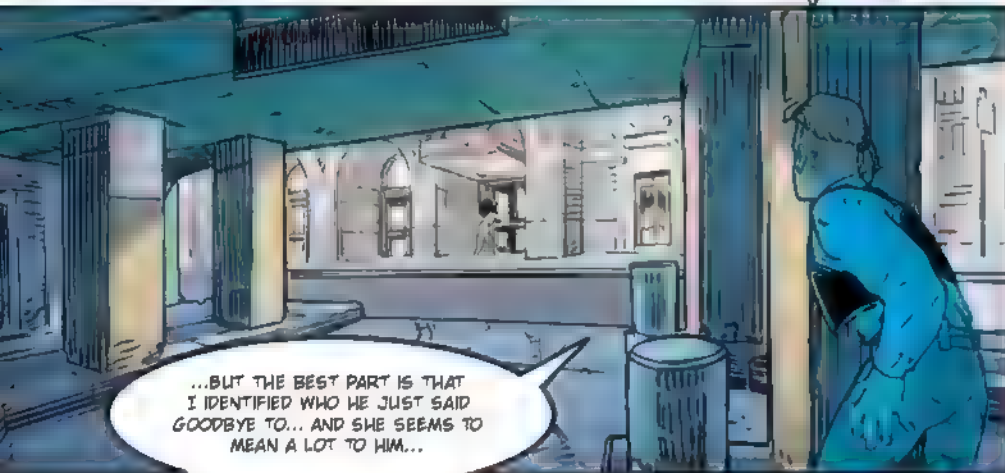
BOSS? IT'S PAUL. YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO I JUST SAW LEAVING TOWN.



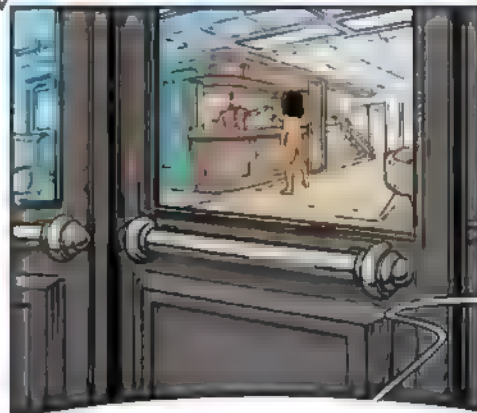
YOU IDIOT, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE KEEPING AN EYE ON TOMASSINI! IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY ANOTHER NAME, I'M GONNA RIP YOUR NAILS OUT ONE AT A TIME!



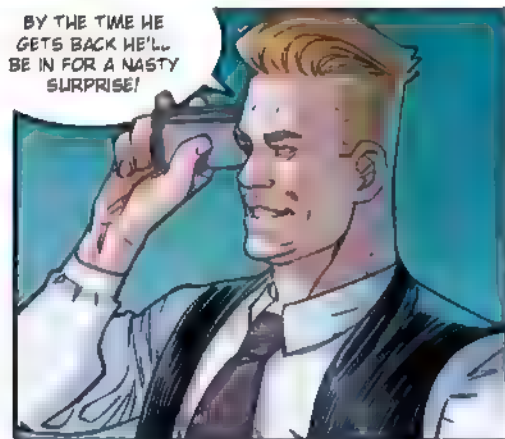
I... OKAY, IT'S TOMASSINI. GIVEN THE GOODBYES HE WAS MAKING, HE'S LEAVING FOR A WHILE...



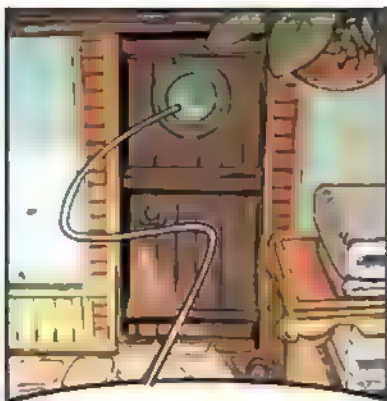
...BUT THE BEST PART IS THAT I IDENTIFIED WHO HE JUST SAID GOODBYE TO... AND SHE SEEMS TO MEAN A LOT TO HIM...



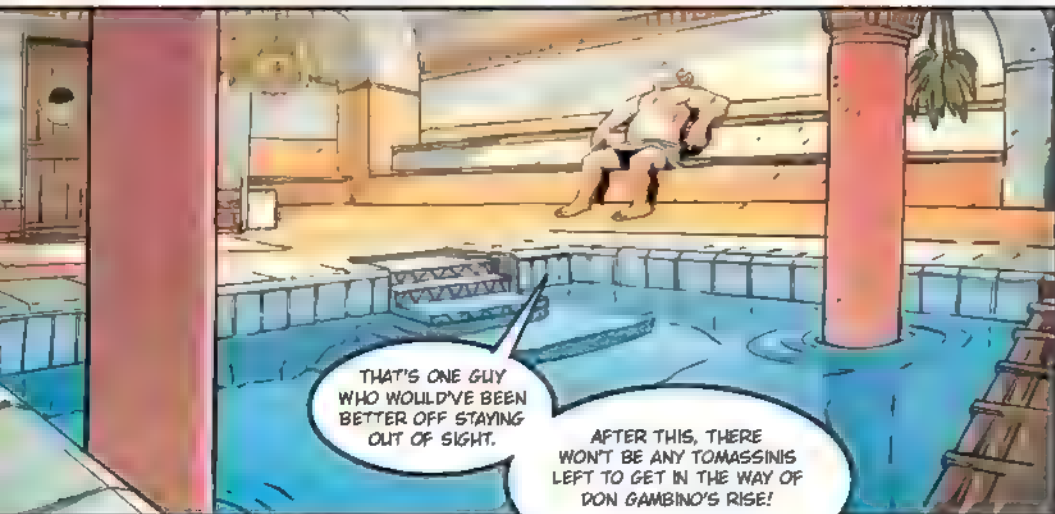
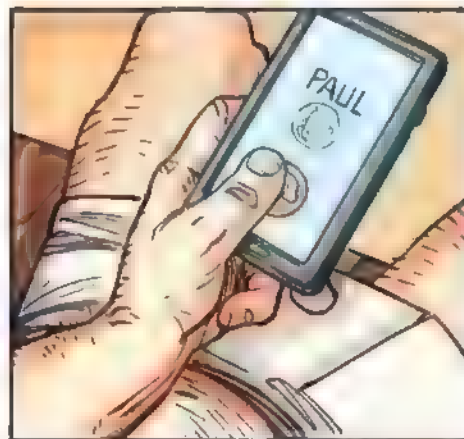
...ENOUGH TO CONSIDER HER HIS ACHILLES' HEEL, IF YOU SEE WHAT I'M SAYING...



BY THE TIME HE GETS BACK HE'LL BE IN FOR A NASTY SURPRISE!



IF YOU WANNA BE ALIVE FOR YOUR KID'S BIRTH, WE DAMN WELL BETTER BE!



THAT'S ONE GUY WHO WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF STAYING OUT OF SIGHT.

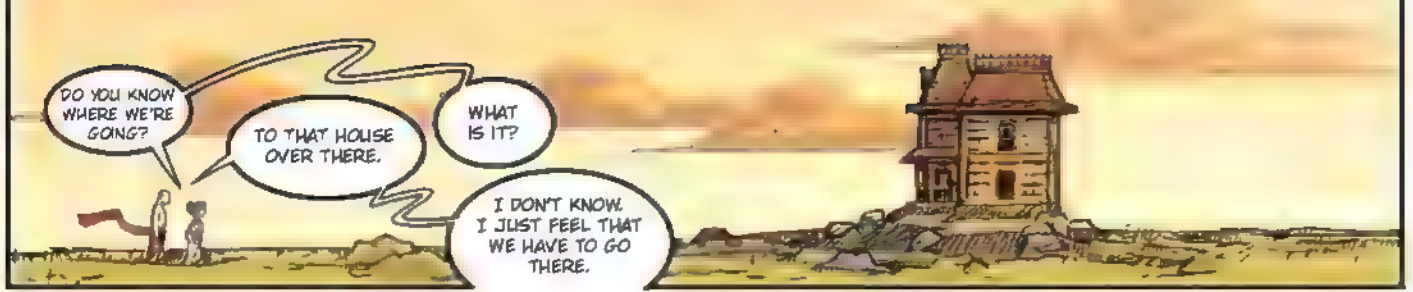
AFTER THIS, THERE WON'T BE ANY TOMASSINIS LEFT TO GET IN THE WAY OF DON GAMBINO'S RISE!



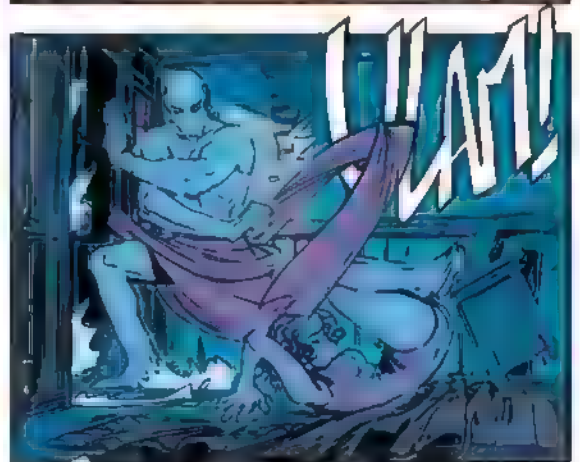
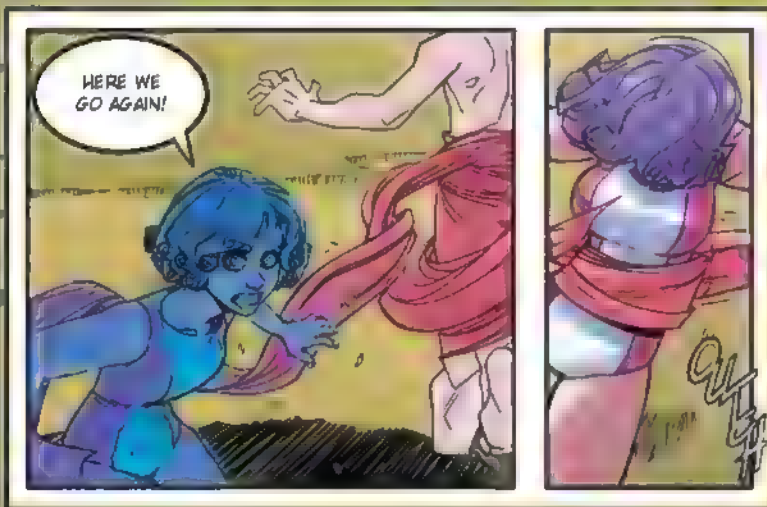
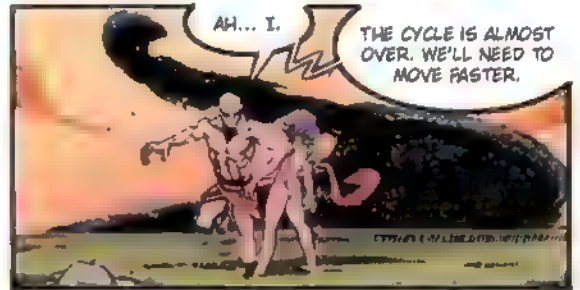
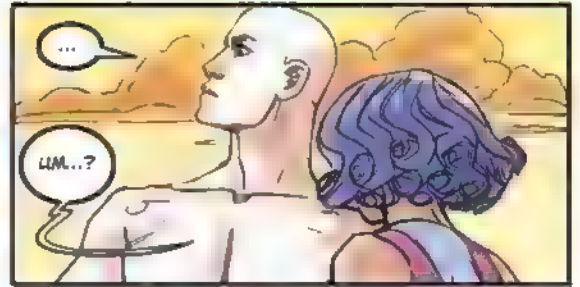
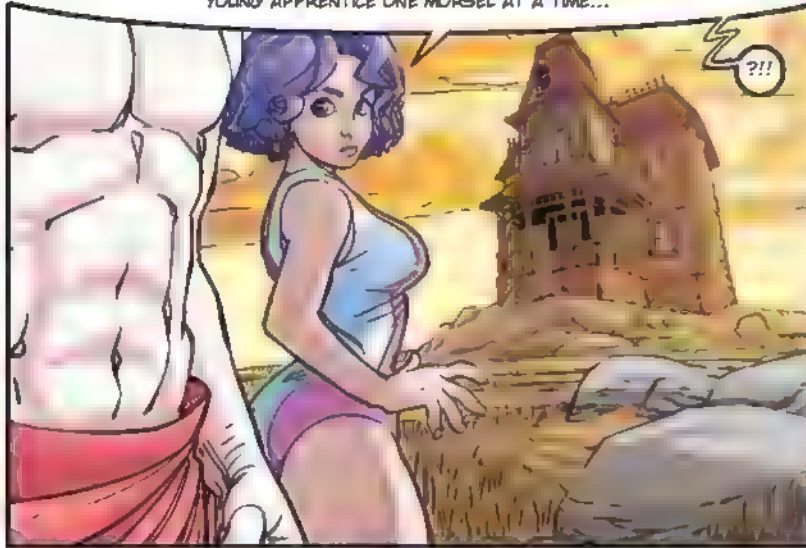
HWAH HAH!

HAHA HAH

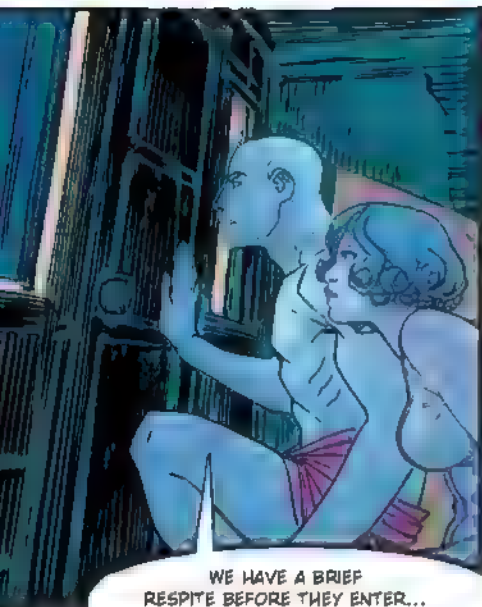




I LOVE TALKING WITH YOU. I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M IN ONE OF THOSE OLD MOVIES WHERE THE WISE ALL-KNOWING SAGE SHARES HIS KNOWLEDGE WITH A YOUNG APPRENTICE ONE MORSEL AT A TIME...



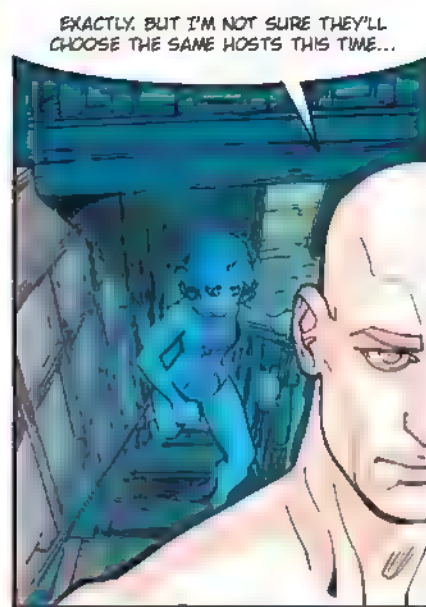




WE HAVE A BRIEF  
RESPIRE BEFORE THEY ENTER...



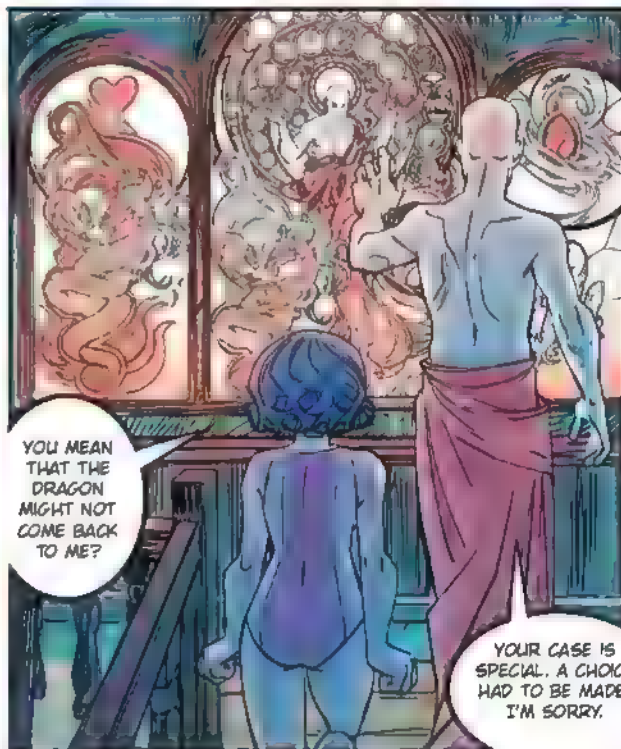
THIS "END OF CYCLE"... DOES THAT  
MEAN THE TOTEMS WILL COME BACK TO  
THE REAL WORLD? AND THEY WON'T  
BE AGGRESSIVE ANYMORE?



EXACTLY. BUT I'M NOT SURE THEY'LL  
CHOOSE THE SAME HOSTS THIS TIME...

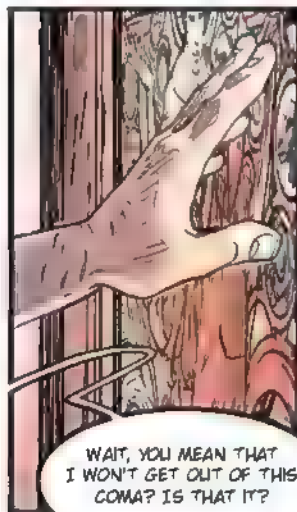


SOME OF THEM HAVE CHANGED A  
GREAT DEAL UNDER THEIR TOTEM'S INFLUENCE.  
THE SPIRITS WILL DECIDE WHAT IS BEST  
FOR EVERYONE.

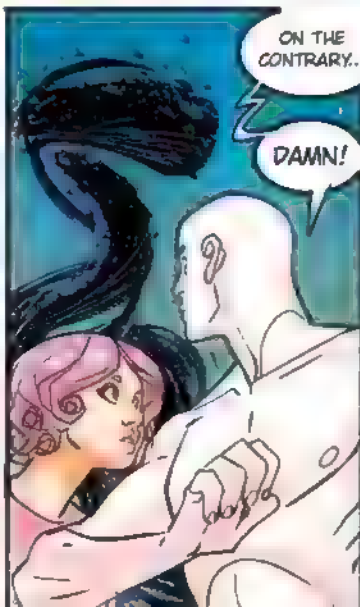


YOU MEAN  
THAT THE  
DRAGON  
MIGHT NOT  
COME BACK  
TO ME?

YOUR CASE IS  
SPECIAL. A CHOICE  
HAD TO BE MADE.  
I'M SORRY.

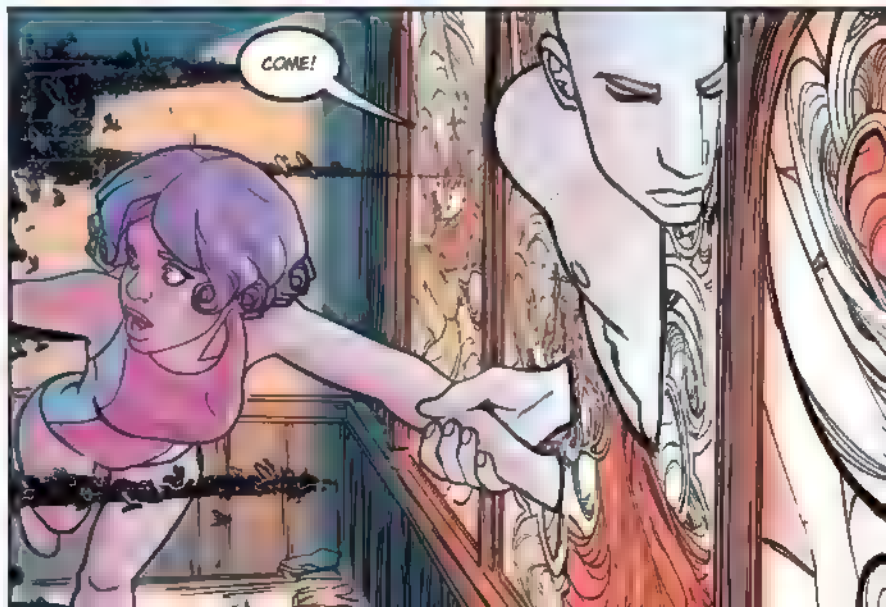


WAIT, YOU MEAN THAT  
I WON'T GET OUT OF THIS  
COMA? IS THAT IT?



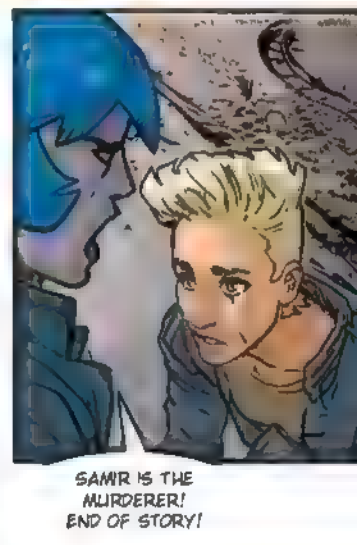
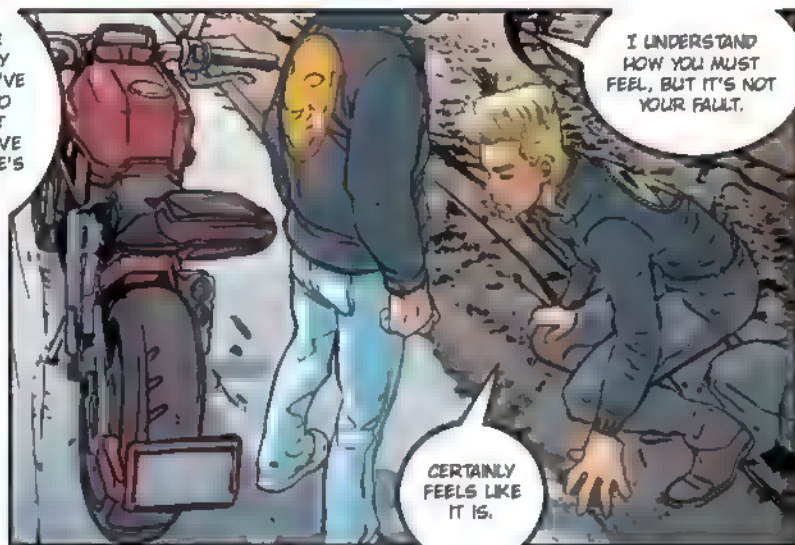
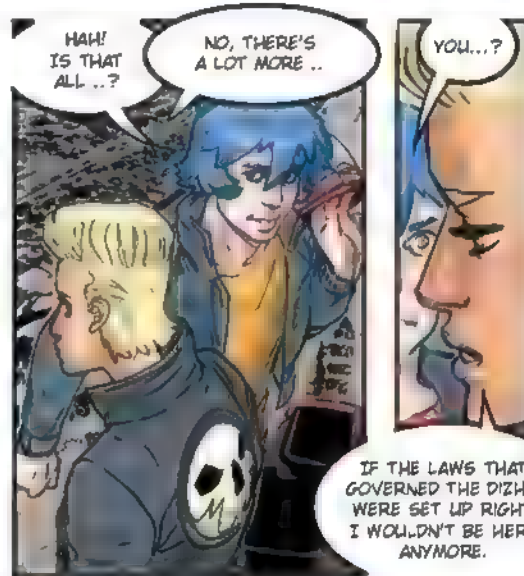
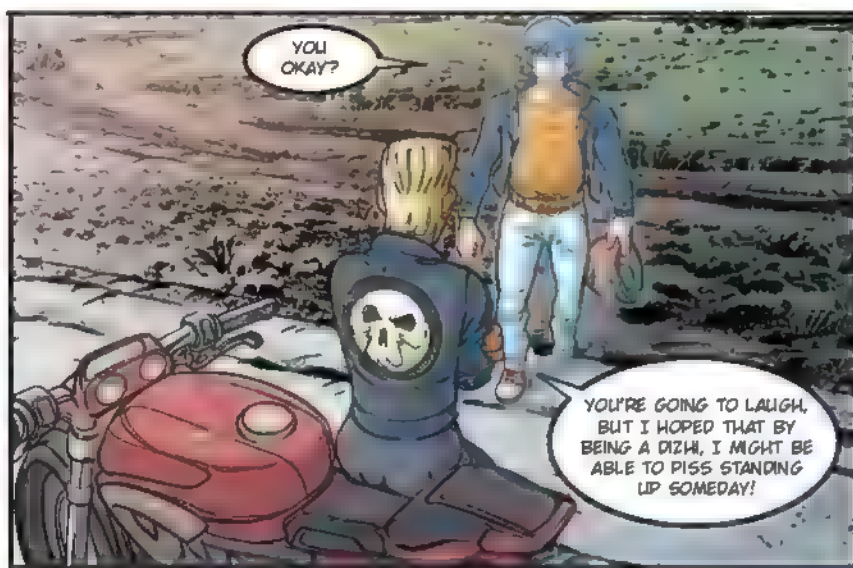
ON THE  
CONTRARY...

DAMN!



COME!







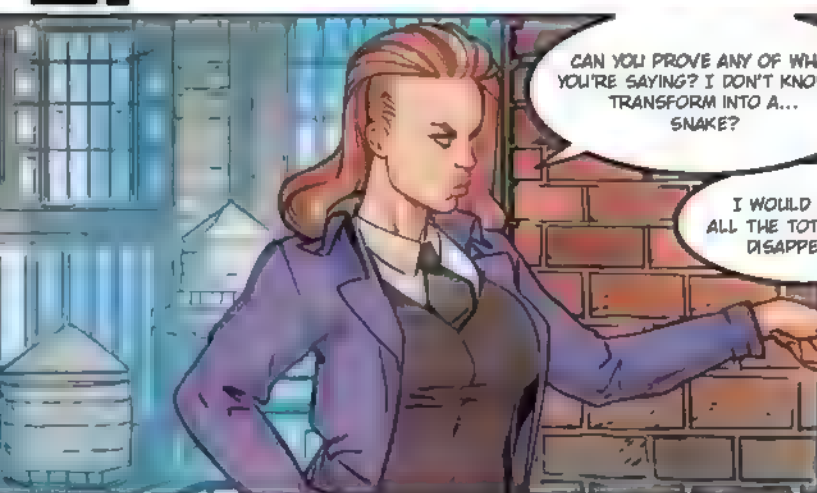


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THIS.

I MEAN... THE MAFIA IS ONE THING, BUT THE DIFFERENT TOTEMS... THE MAGICAL SPIRITS... IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME.

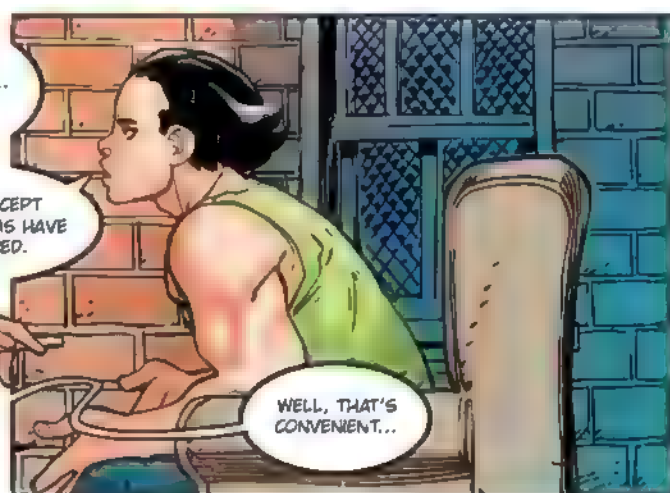


WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? YOU ASKED ME TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING AND I DID.



CAN YOU PROVE ANY OF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? I DON'T KNOW... TRANSFORM INTO A... SNAKE?

I WOULD EXCEPT ALL THE TOTEMS HAVE DISAPPEARED.



WELL, THAT'S CONVENIENT...



WAIT, WE'RE NOT CRIMINALS! WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.



COMMISSIONER? WE HAVE THE KIDS!

WHAT?

WHAT?

ONE OF THE NINJAS JUST BROKE. HE GAVE US THE ADDRESS WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING THE KIDS THEY KIDNAPPED FROM SHAAZ'S PLACE.



THEY'RE ALL IN A COMA ..



ALRIGHT, WELL, LIKE WE SAY IN THE INDUSTRY, I THINK IT'S TIME TO BRING A "GUEST" ON STAGE.

AND, NO, IT WON'T BE MELANIE, SIMON, OR AARON...

THOSE THREE HAVE TOTALLY DISAPPEARED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE'LL EVER SEE THEM AGAIN...

NO, TODAY'S GUEST IS SOMEONE FAR MORE SPECIAL. ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT HER EARLIER...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR LISA!

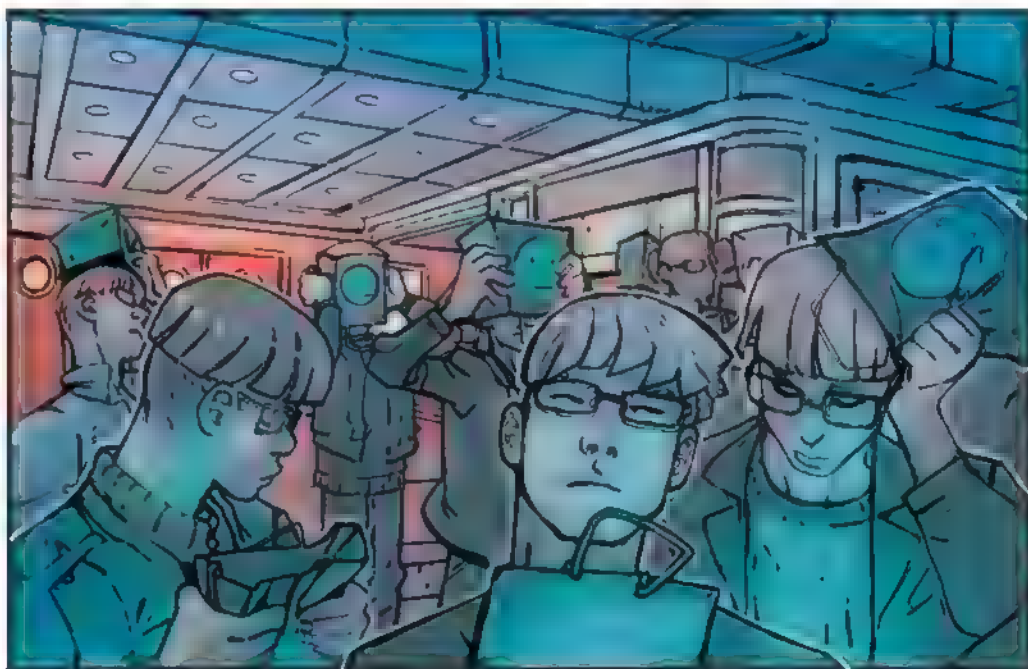
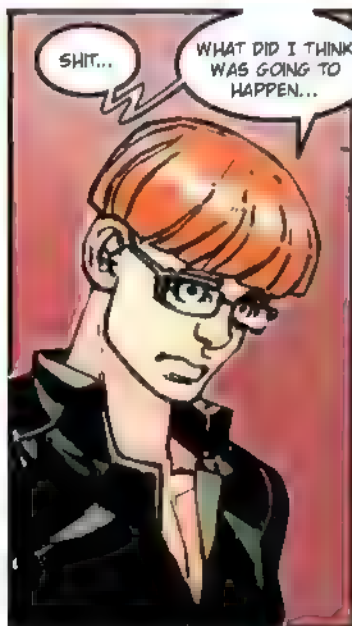
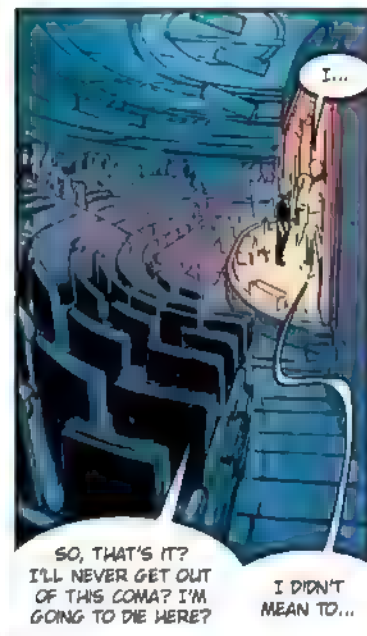
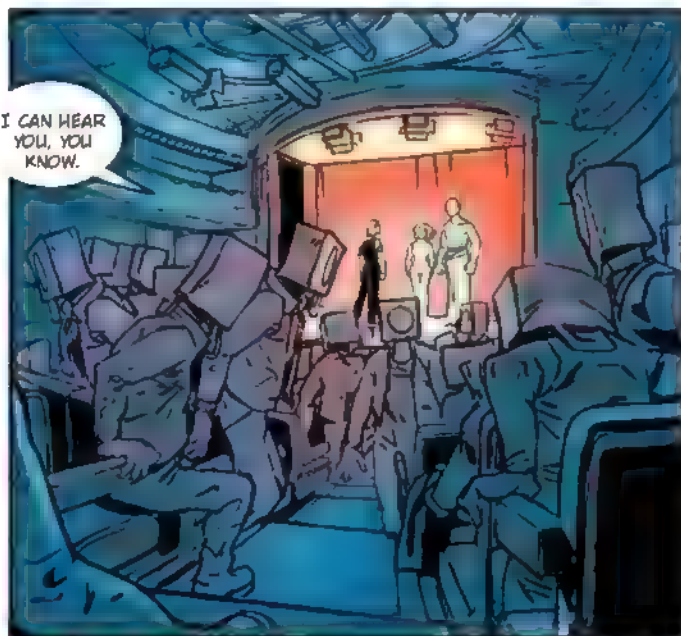
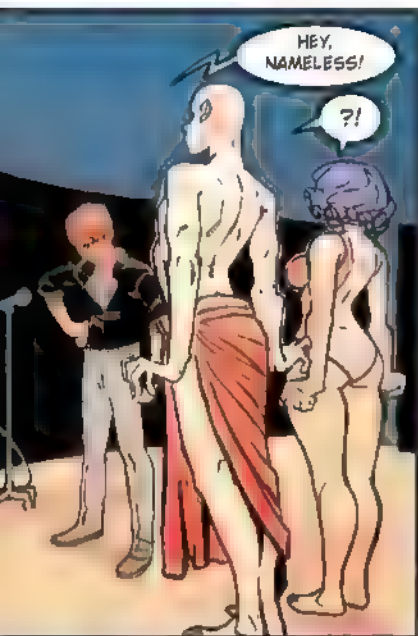
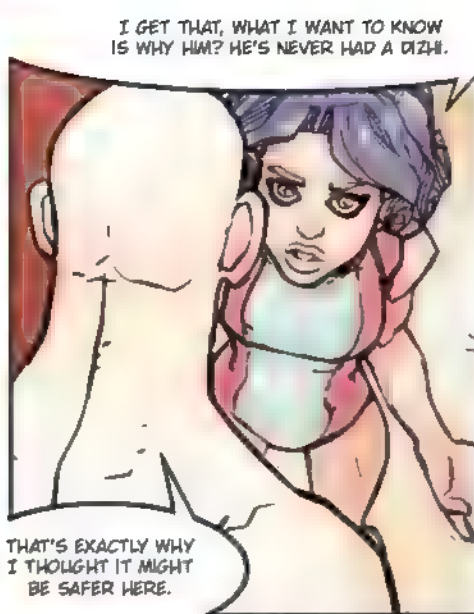
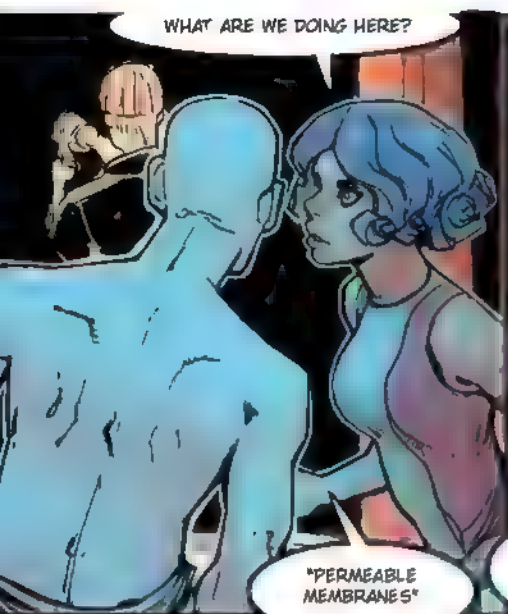
AND SHE'S ACCOMPANIED BY...

...WHAT'S YOUR NAME, PAL?

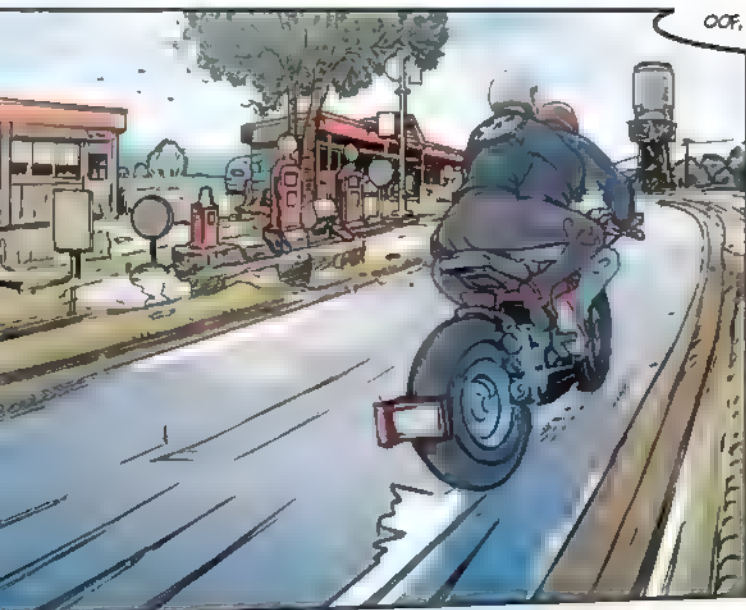
I DON'T HAVE ONE YET...

AND SHE'S ACCOMPANIED BY NAMELESS!





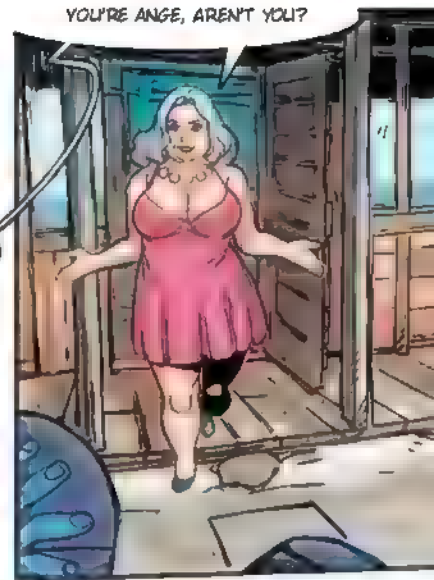




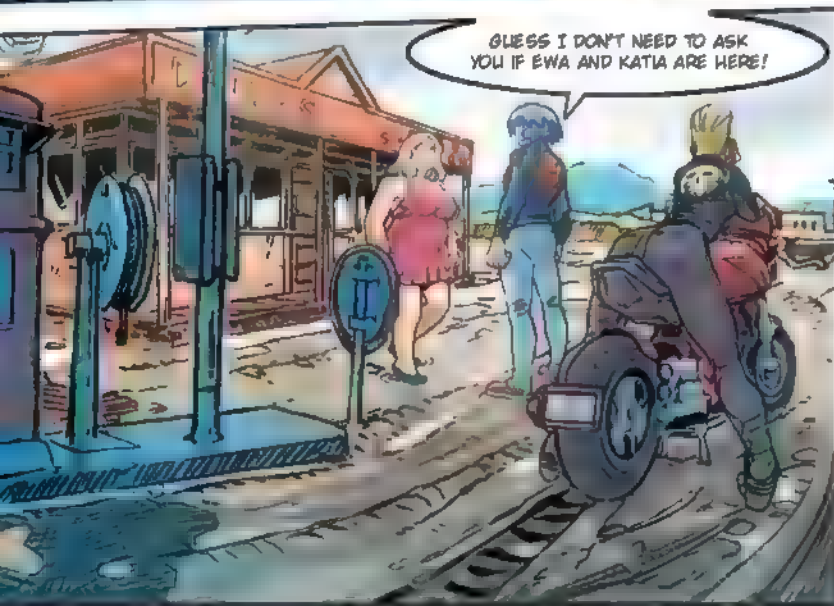
OOF, I'M GLAD WE'RE FINALLY HERE.



HEY, THERE.



YOU'RE ANGE, AREN'T YOU?

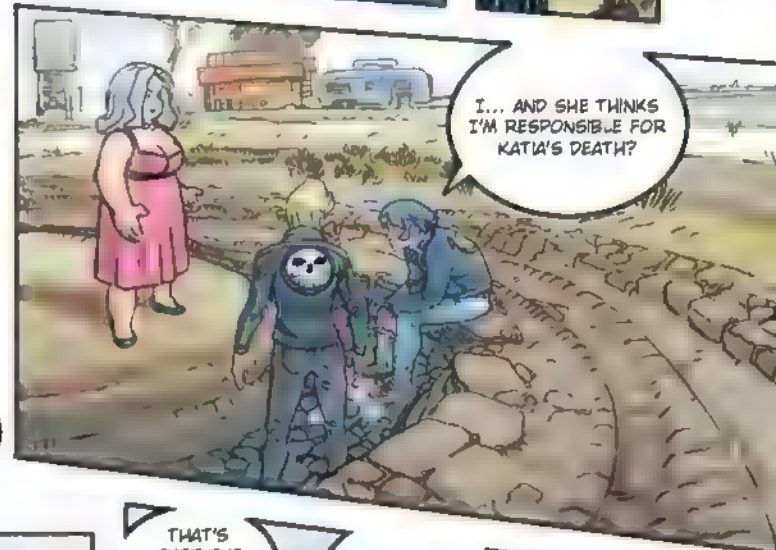


GUESS I DON'T NEED TO ASK YOU IF EWA AND KATIA ARE HERE!



CRAP, I KNEW IT! YOU DON'T KNOW!

KNOW WHAT?!



I... AND SHE THINKS I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR KATIA'S DEATH?



SHE'S VERY CONFUSED. I THINK IN HER HEART, SHE NEVER WOULD HAVE GONE TO DETROIT IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU... WHICH MEANS THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IS YOUR FAULT.

I HAVE TO TALK TO HER.

ARE YOU CRAZY?

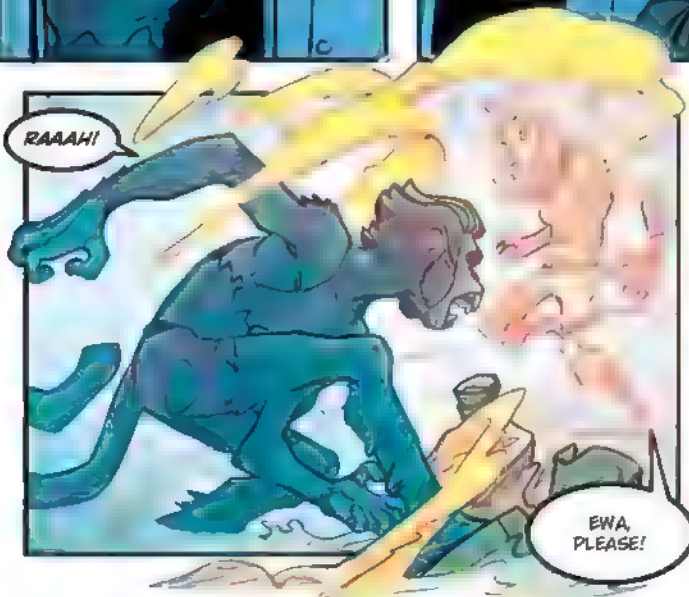
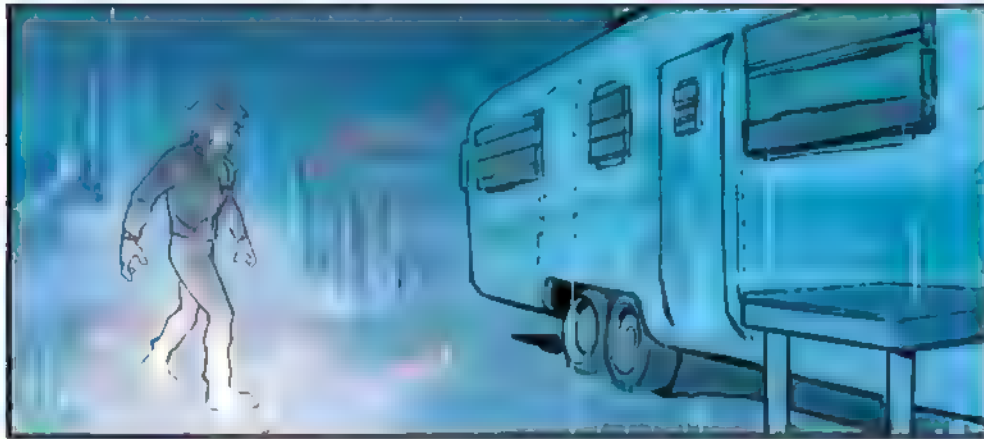
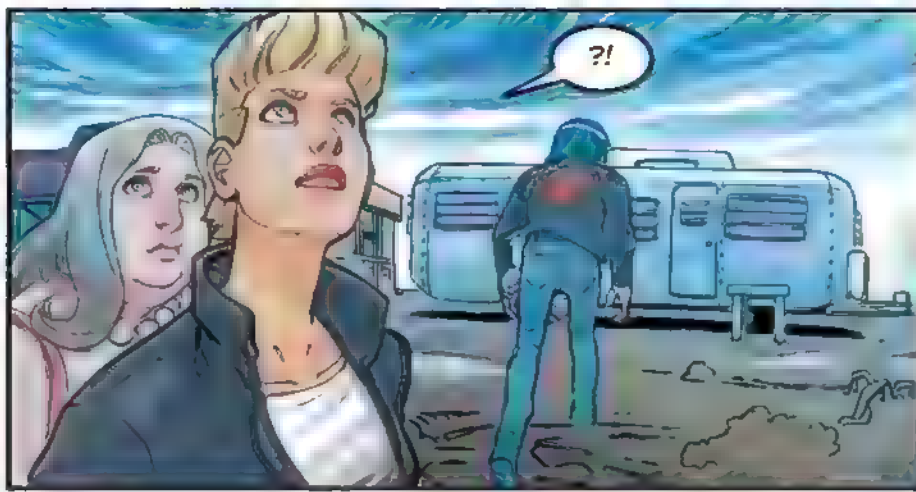
SHE WAS VERY CLEAR ABOUT WANTING TO KILL YOU!



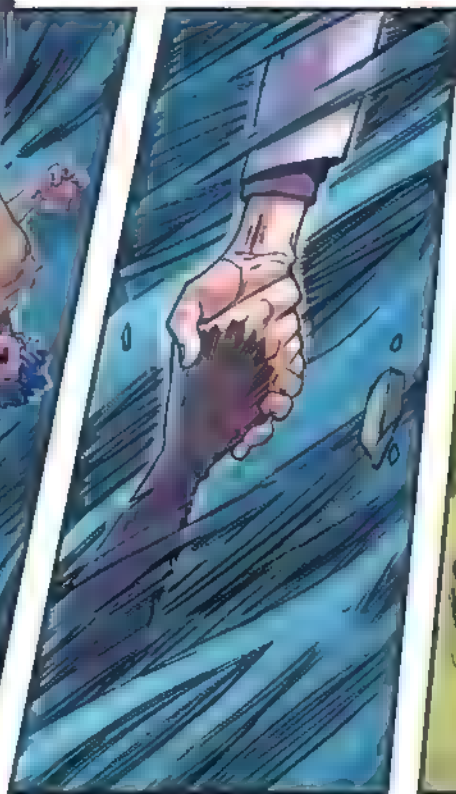
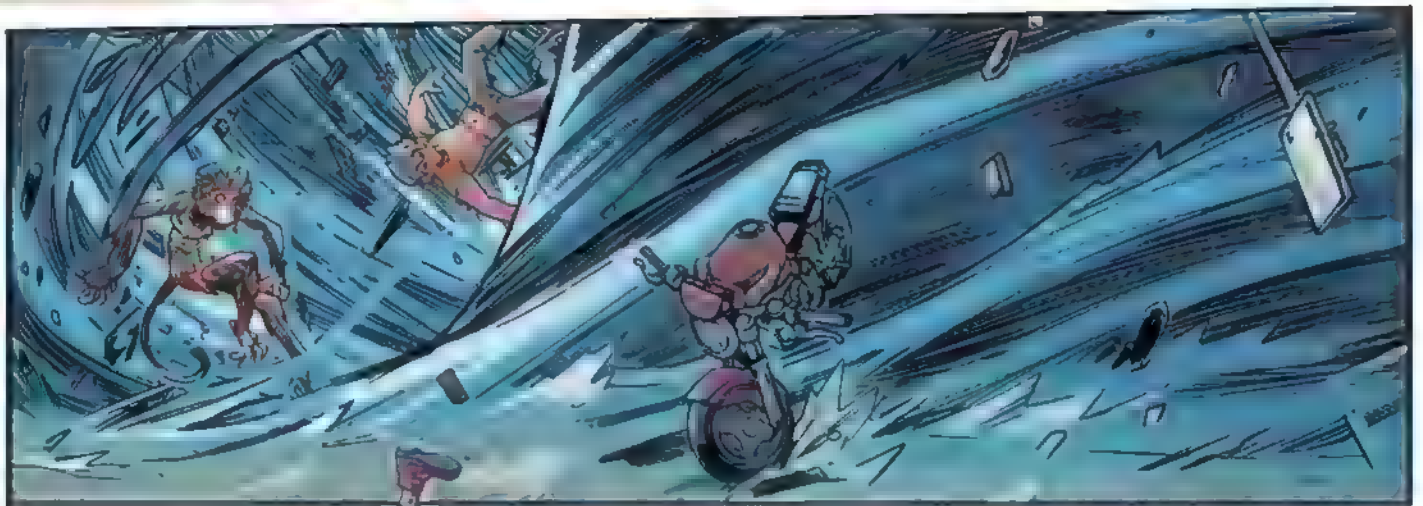
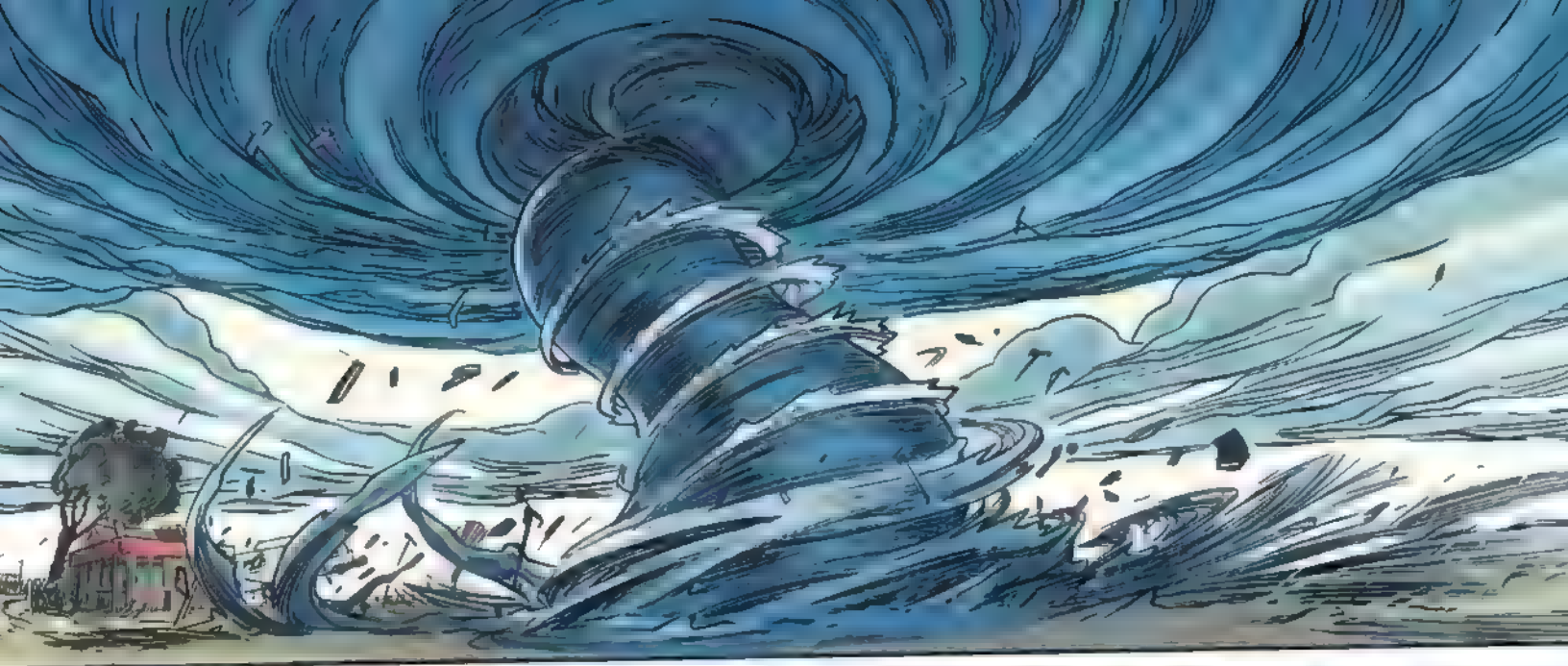
THAT'S JUST THE PAIN TALKING.

I... I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT.

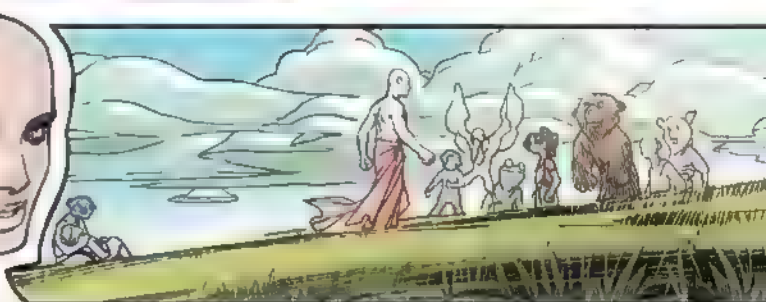
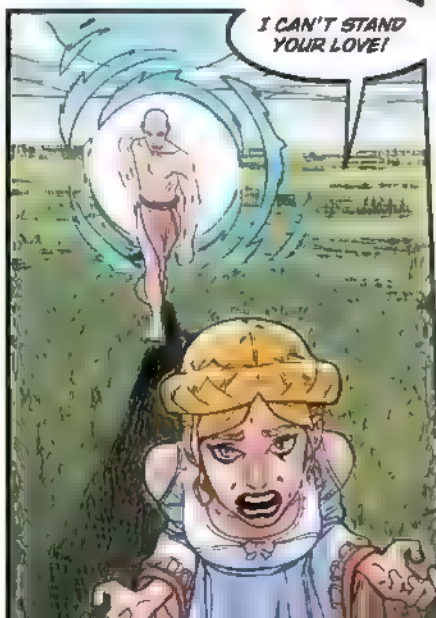
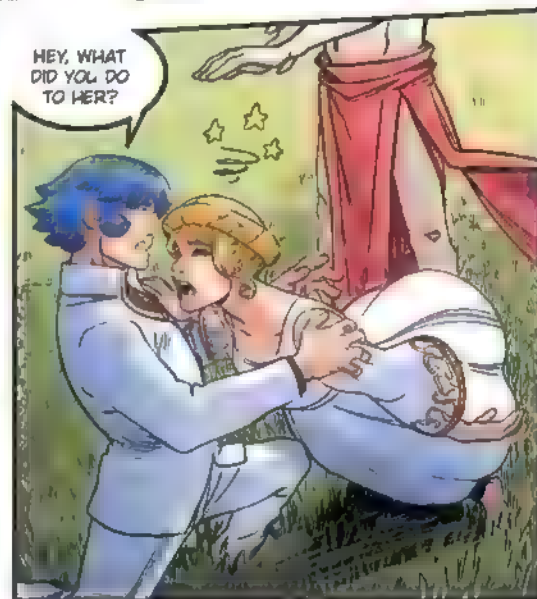
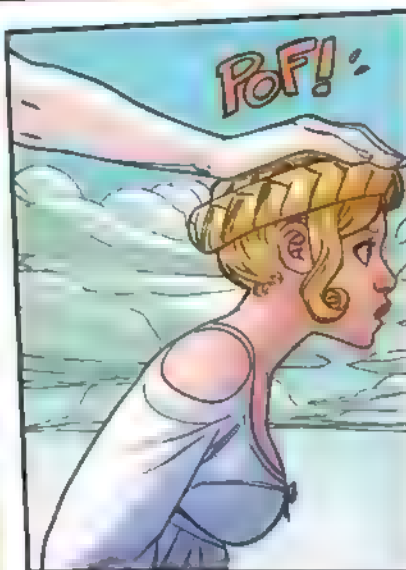
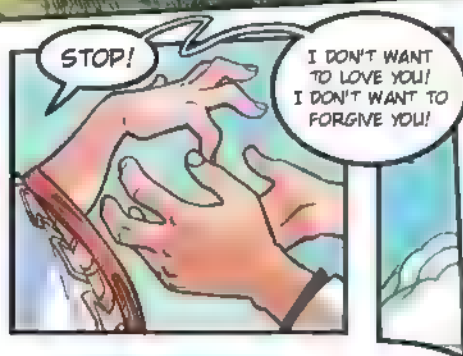
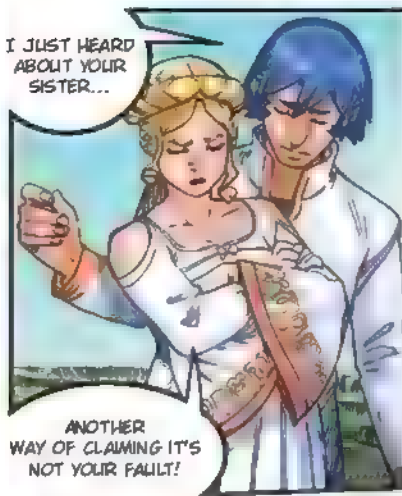






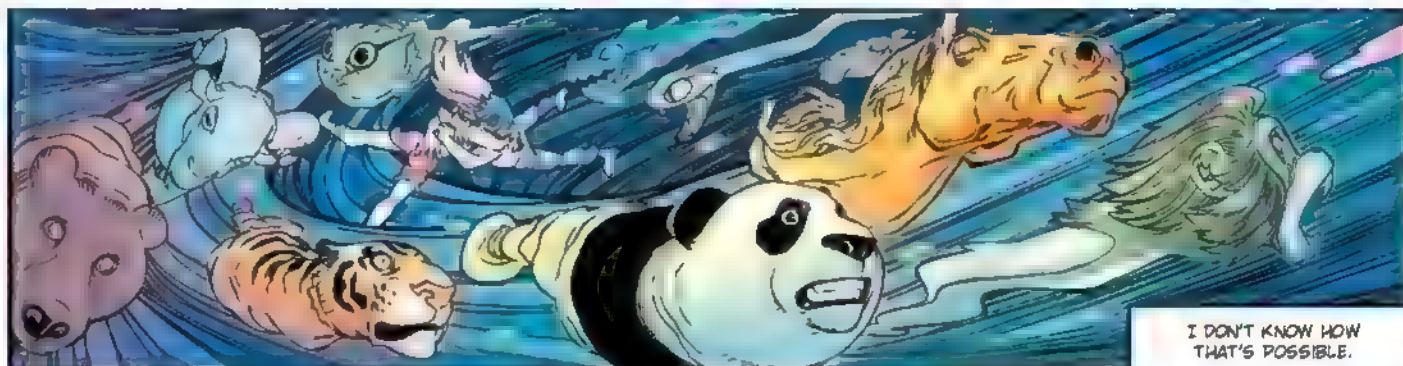
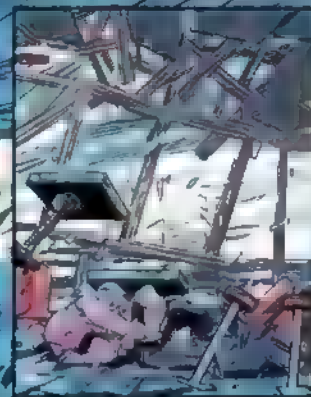






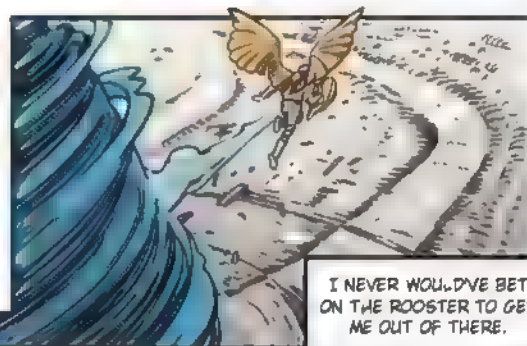
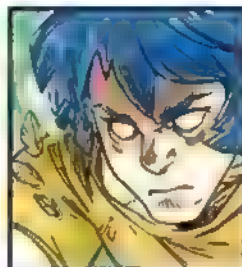
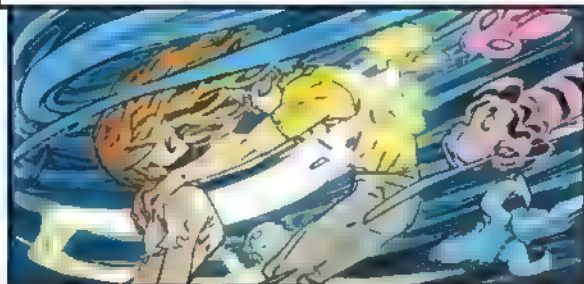


I THINK I GOT  
EJECTED FROM MY  
OWN INNER WORLD.



I DON'T KNOW HOW  
THAT'S POSSIBLE.

BUT THAT'S NOT ANY CRAZIER THAN  
WHAT I'M EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW.

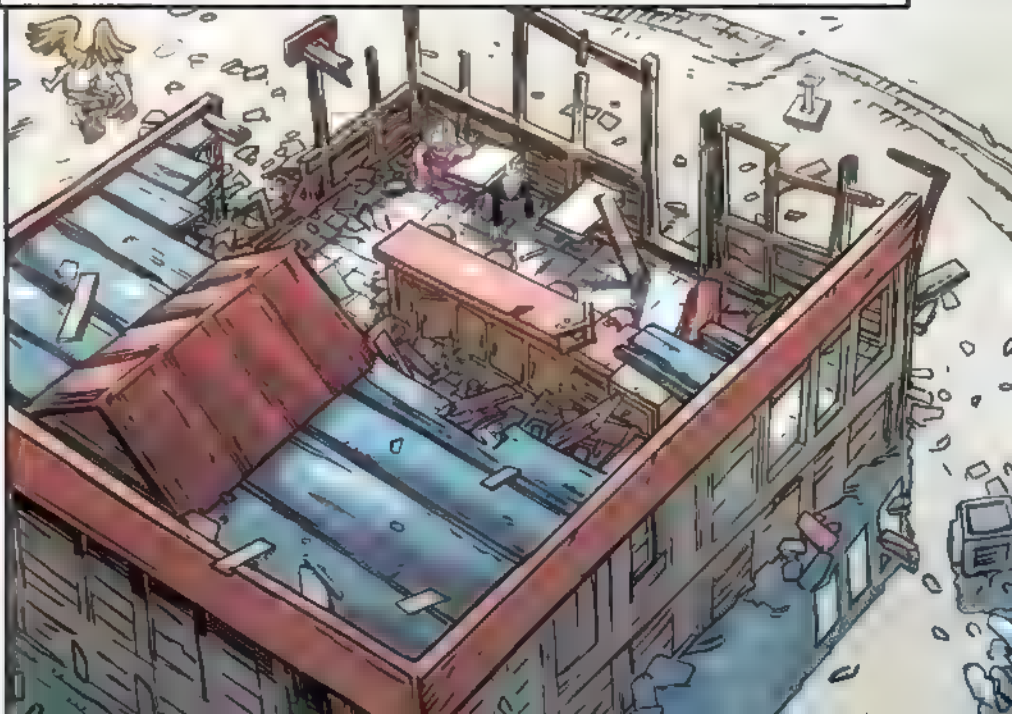


I NEVER WOULD'VE BET  
ON THE ROOSTER TO GET  
ME OUT OF THERE.

I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE ARCHIVIST, SINCE  
HE'S TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE LAWS THAT  
GOVERN DIZHIS...



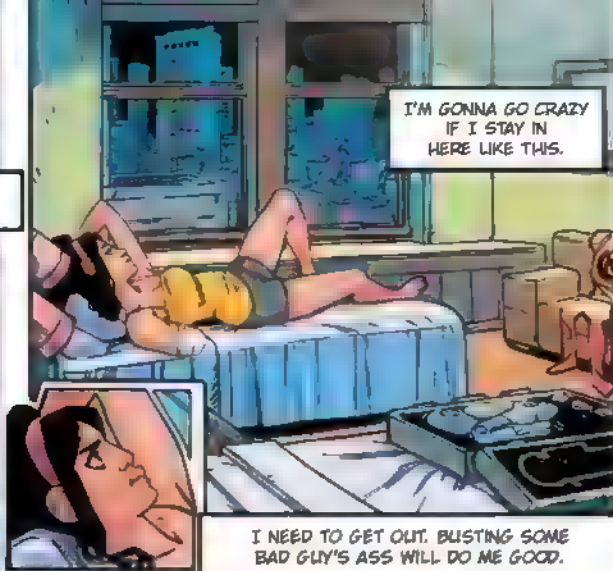
AFTER ALL OF THIS, I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY LAWS. THEY'RE JUST  
COMPLETELY CRAZY... OR SADISTIC... OR VERY, VERY MISCHIEVOUS.







I NEED ACTION...

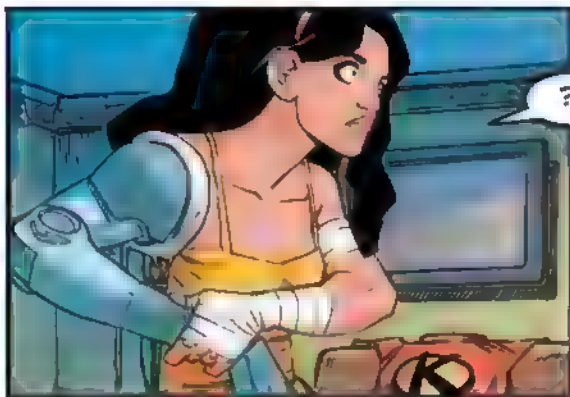


I'M GONNA GO CRAZY IF I STAY IN HERE LIKE THIS.

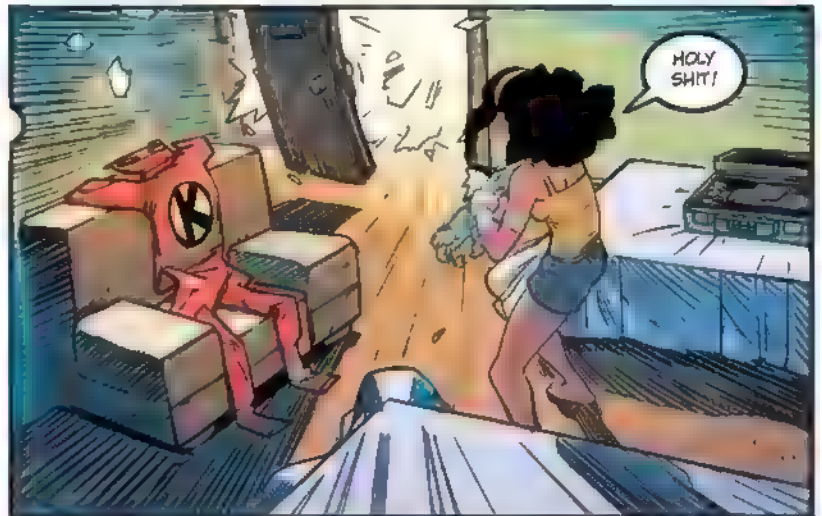
I NEED TO GET OUT. BUSTING SOME BAD GUY'S ASS WILL DO ME GOOD.



THE ACTIVITIES THE ARCHVIST SUGGESTED AREN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH FOR ME.



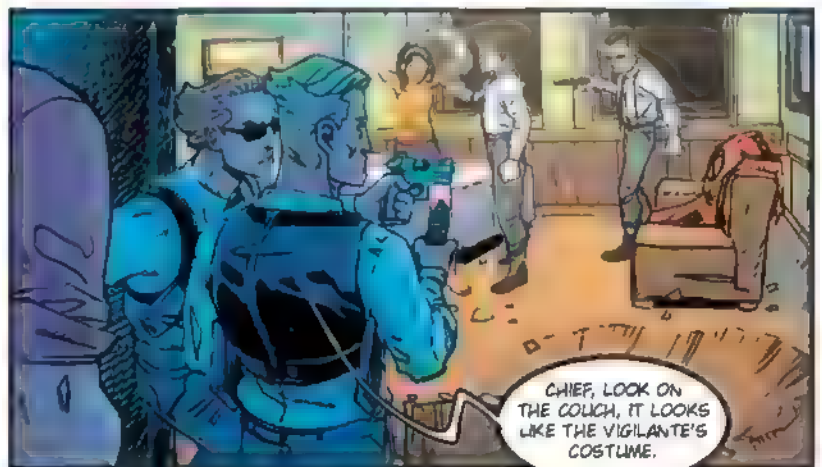
?!



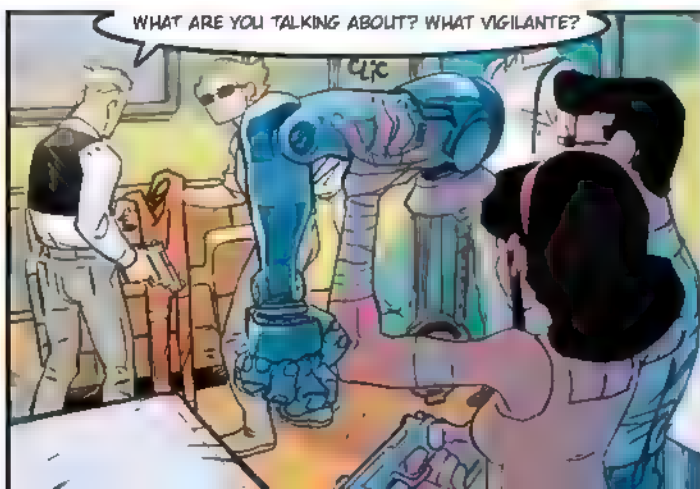
HOLY SHIT!



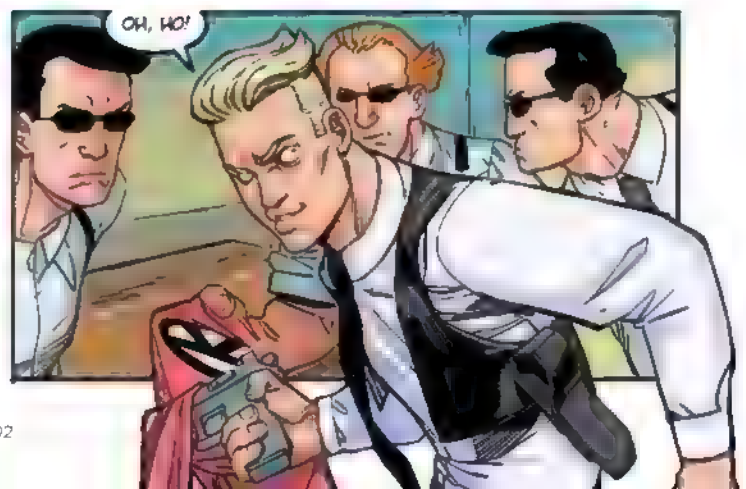
HANDS IN THE AIR! DON'T MOVE!



CHIEF, LOOK ON THE COUCH, IT LOOKS LIKE THE VIGILANTE'S COSTUME.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT VIGILANTE?

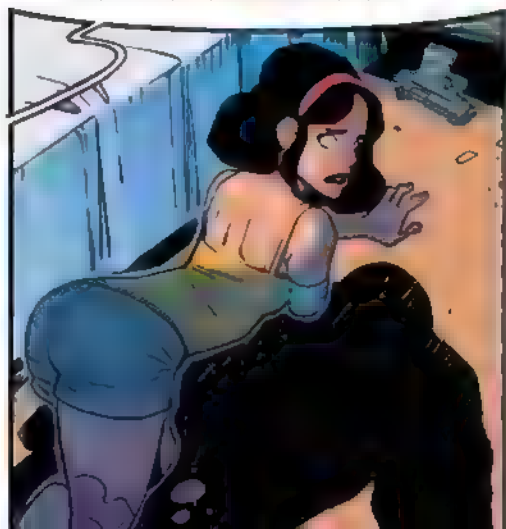


OH, HO!

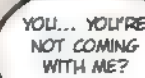
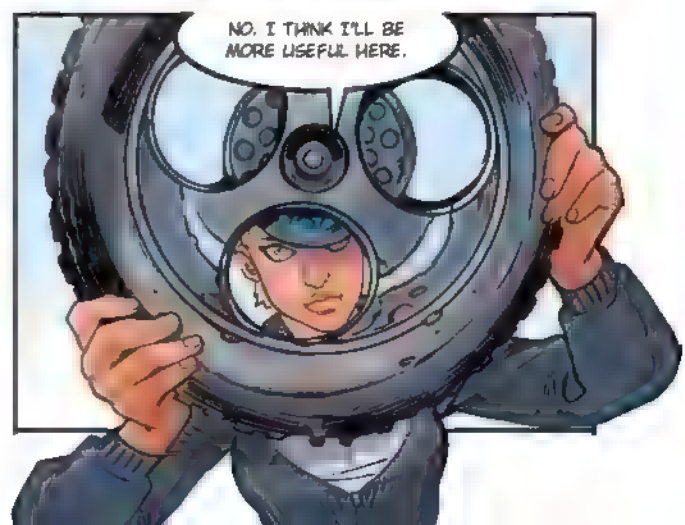
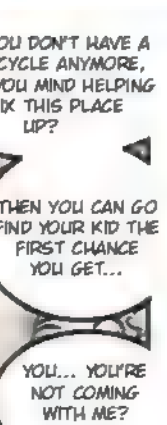
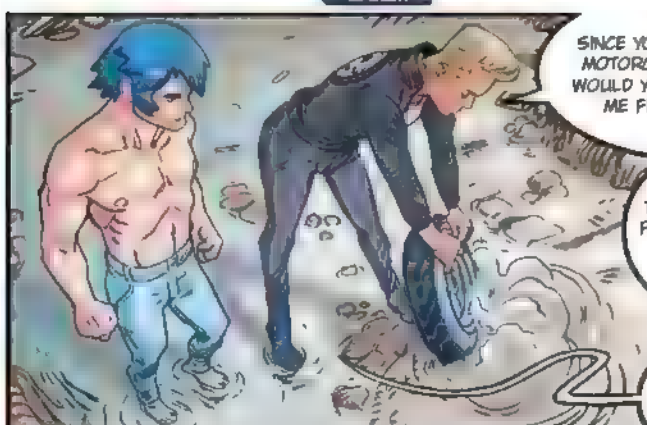
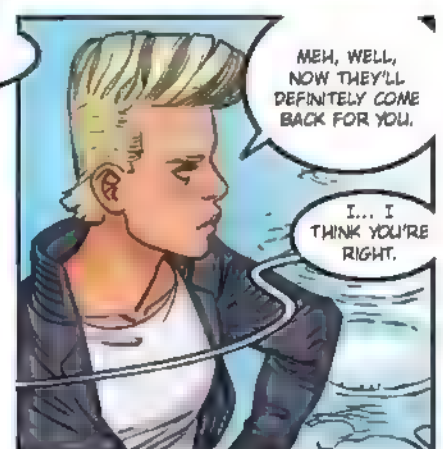
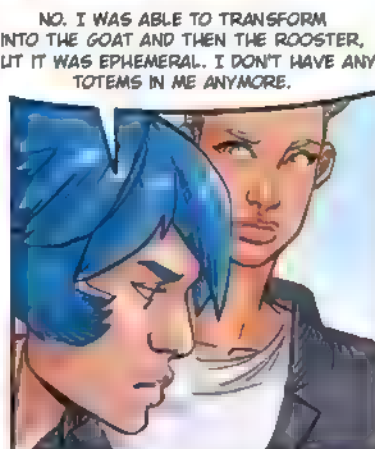
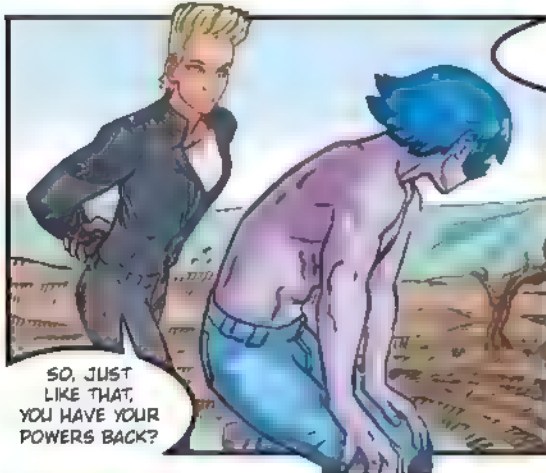
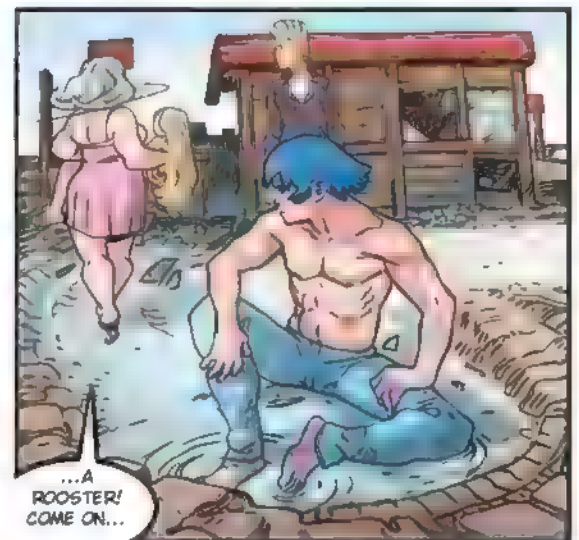
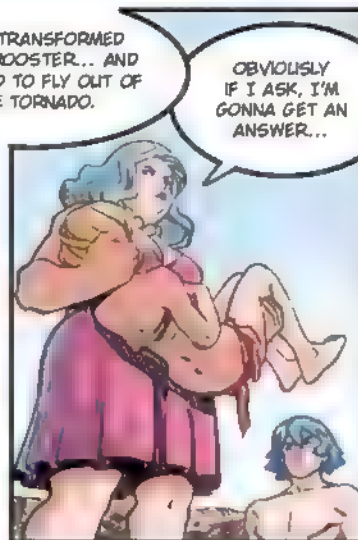
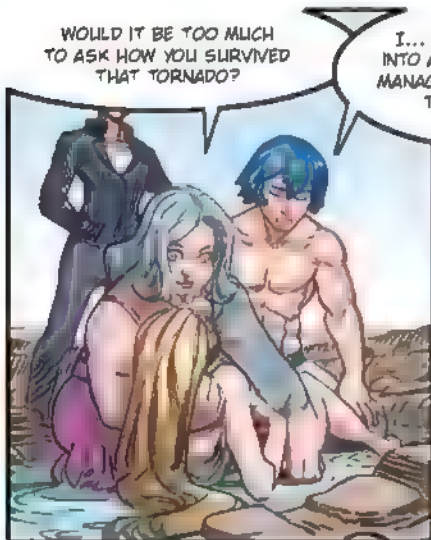
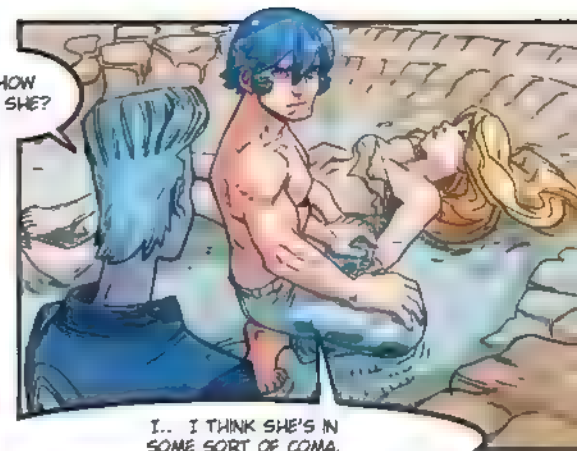
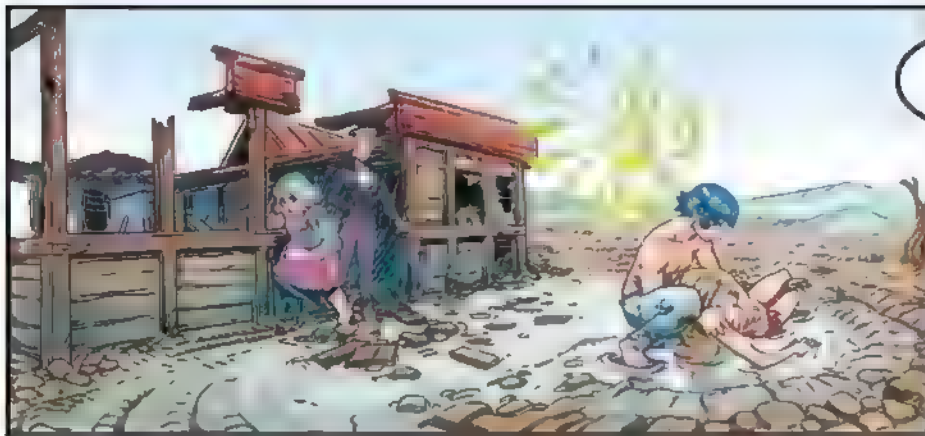




HAHA! LOOK AT WHAT WE GOT HERE! SHE STILL THINKS SHE CAN GET OUT OF THIS....!



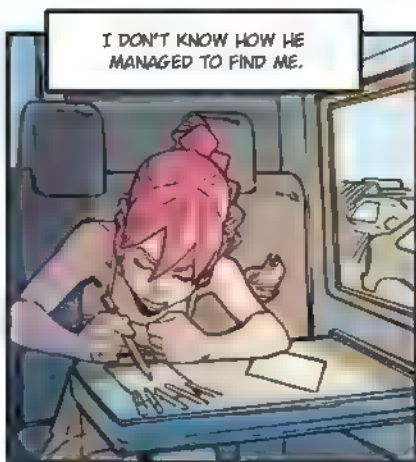




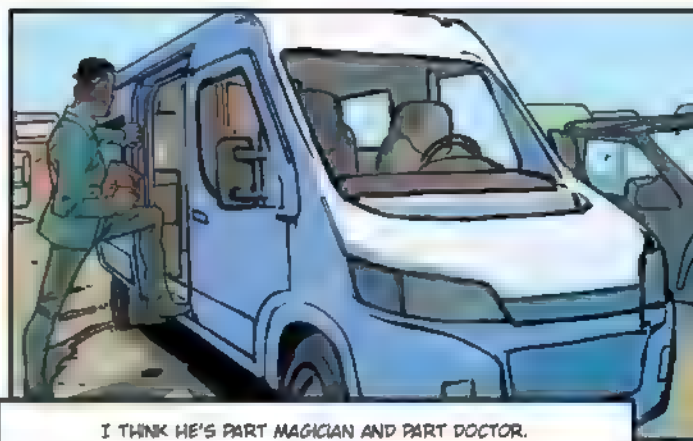




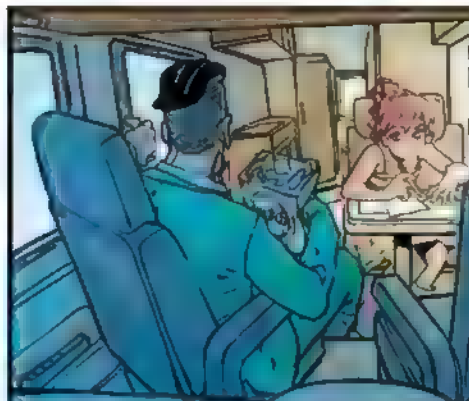
TIAGO IS THE STRANGEST PERSON I KNOW.



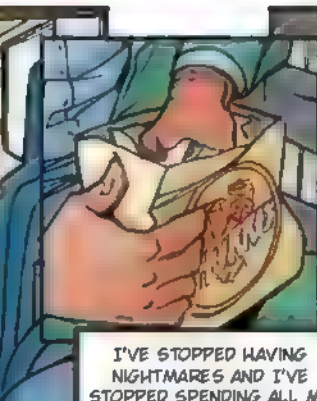
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE MANAGED TO FIND ME.



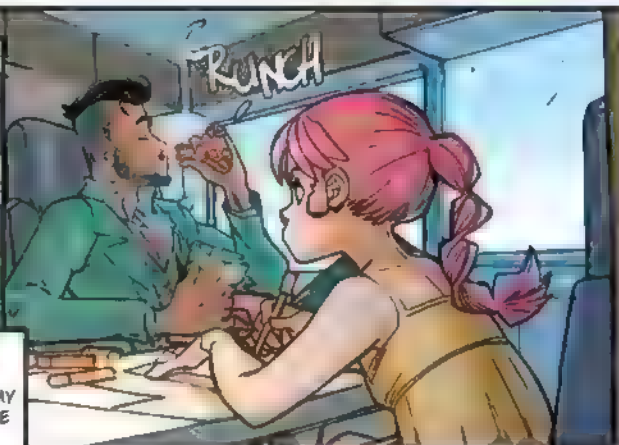
I THINK HE'S PART MAGICIAN AND PART DOCTOR.



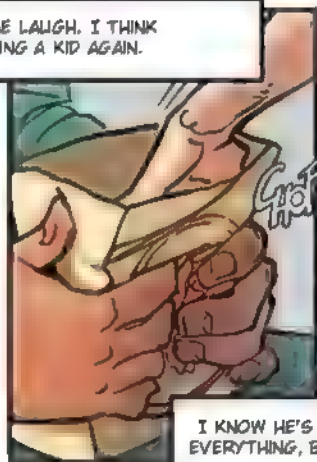
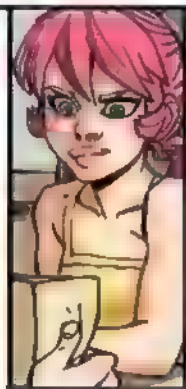
EVER SINCE I'VE BEEN WITH HIM, I'VE BEEN BETTER.



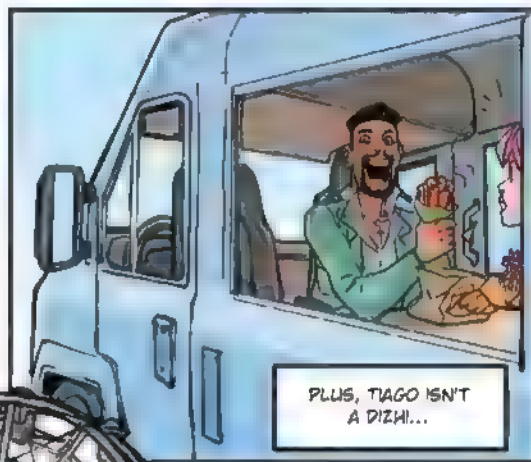
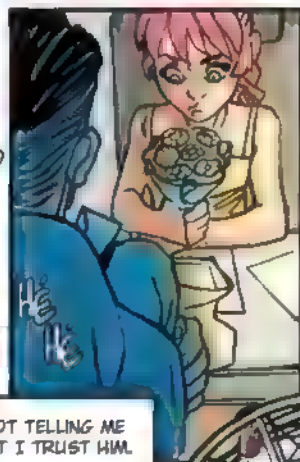
I'VE STOPPED HAVING NIGHTMARES AND I'VE STOPPED SPENDING ALL MY TIME THINKING ABOUT THE PERSON I KILLED.



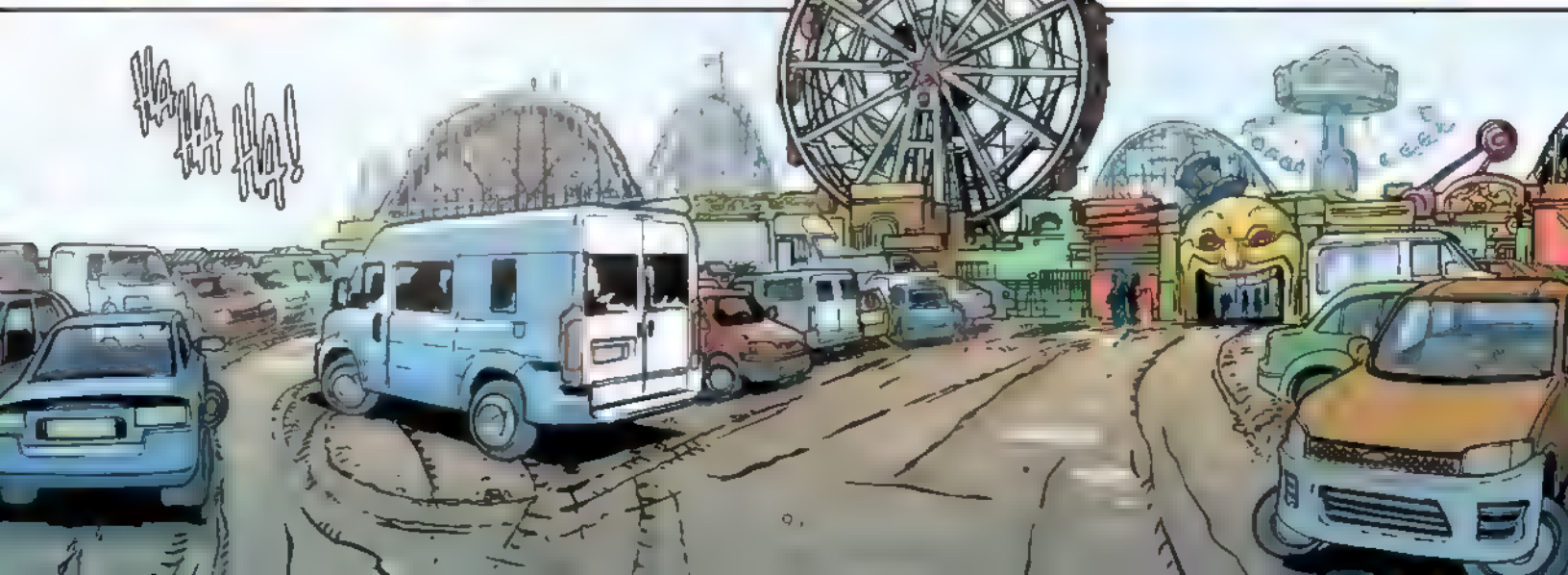
HE MAKES ME LAUGH. I THINK I'M BECOMING A KID AGAIN.



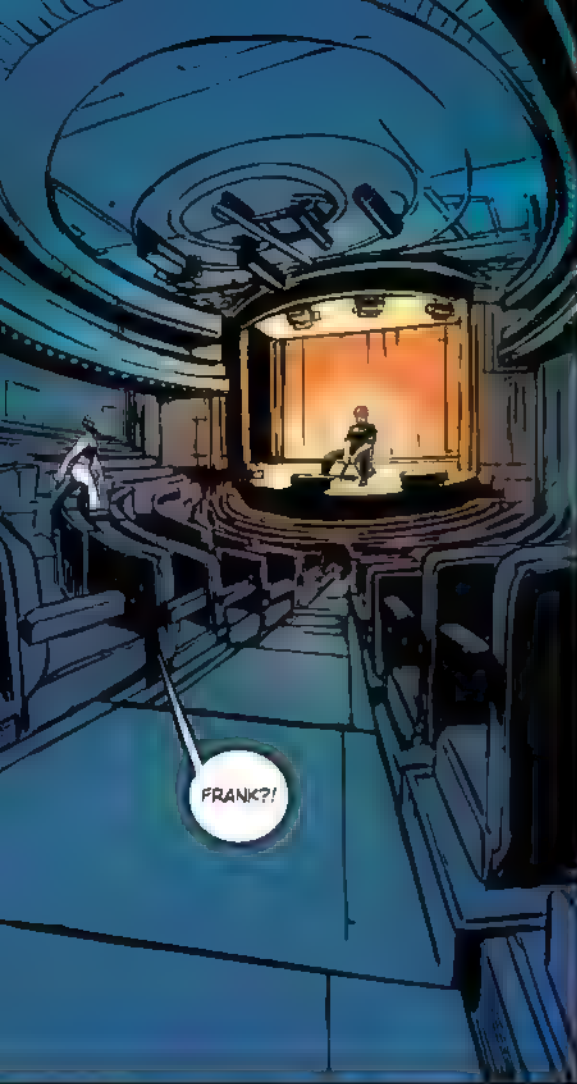
I KNOW HE'S NOT TELLING ME EVERYTHING, BUT I TRUST HIM.



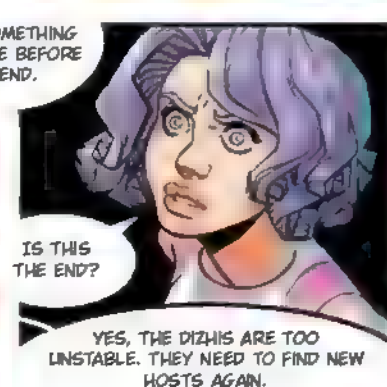
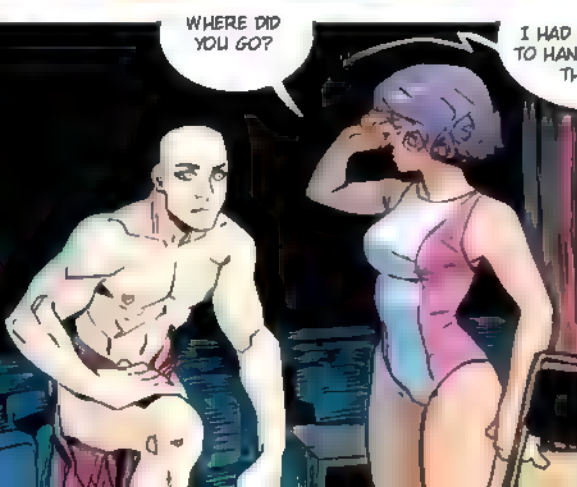
PLUS, TIAGO ISN'T A DIZHI...



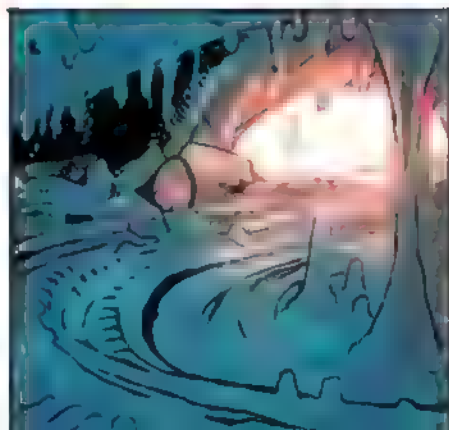
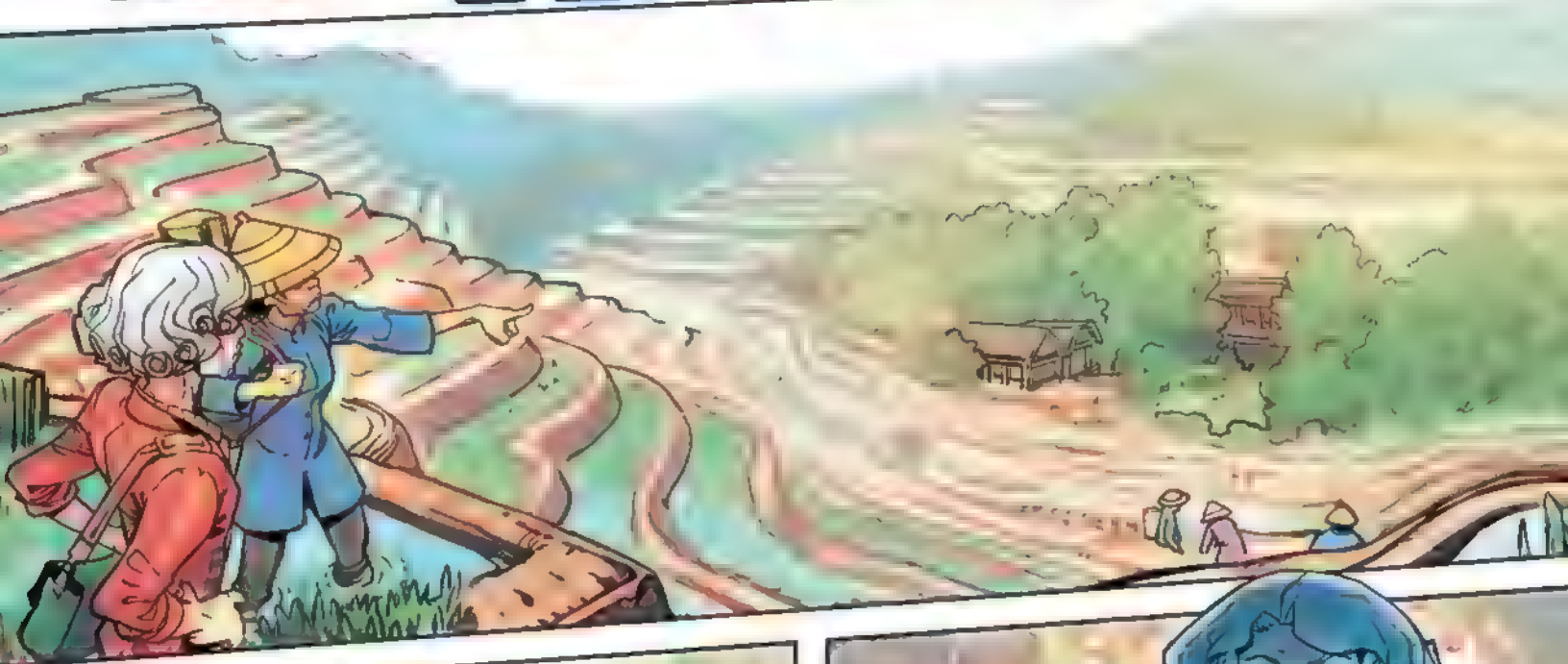
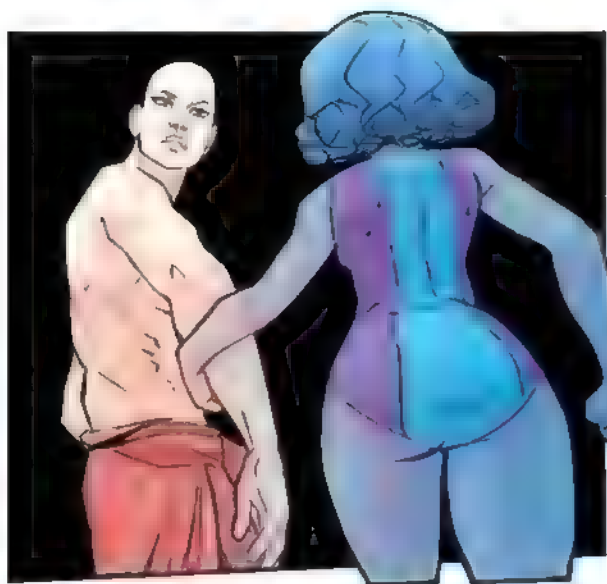




IF YOU SEE ANGE AGAIN, COULD YOU TELL HIM I'M SORRY? MY FRIENDSHIP WAS SINCERE, BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO RECONCILE IT WITH MY MISSION...





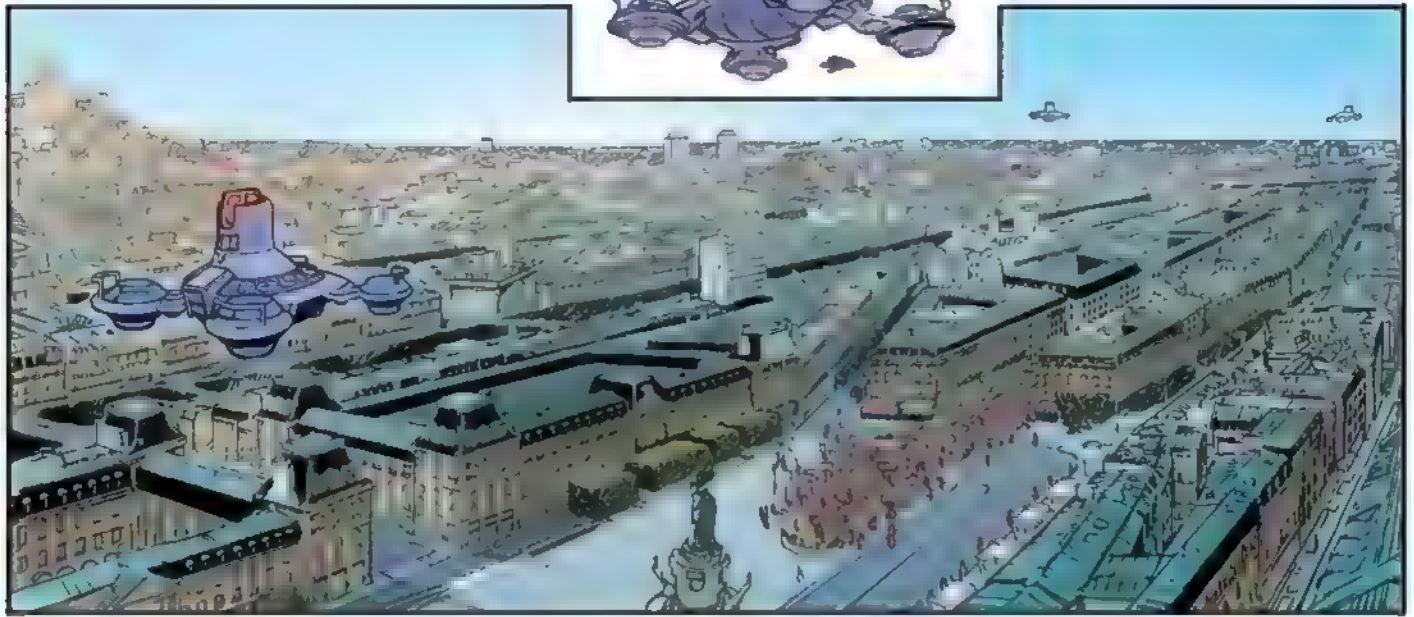




## PART TWELVE: PHOENIX



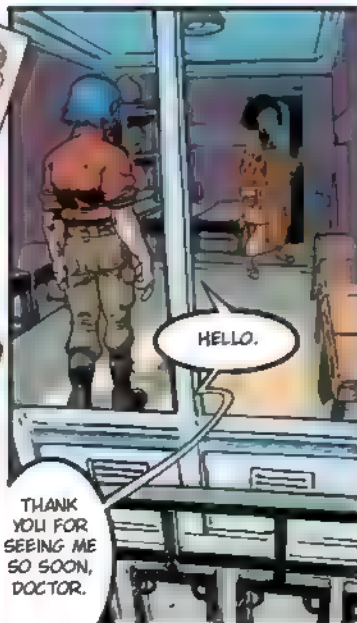




MISTER RILEY? PLEASE COME IN...



?!



HELLO.

THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME SO SOON, DOCTOR.



MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE

THANKS.



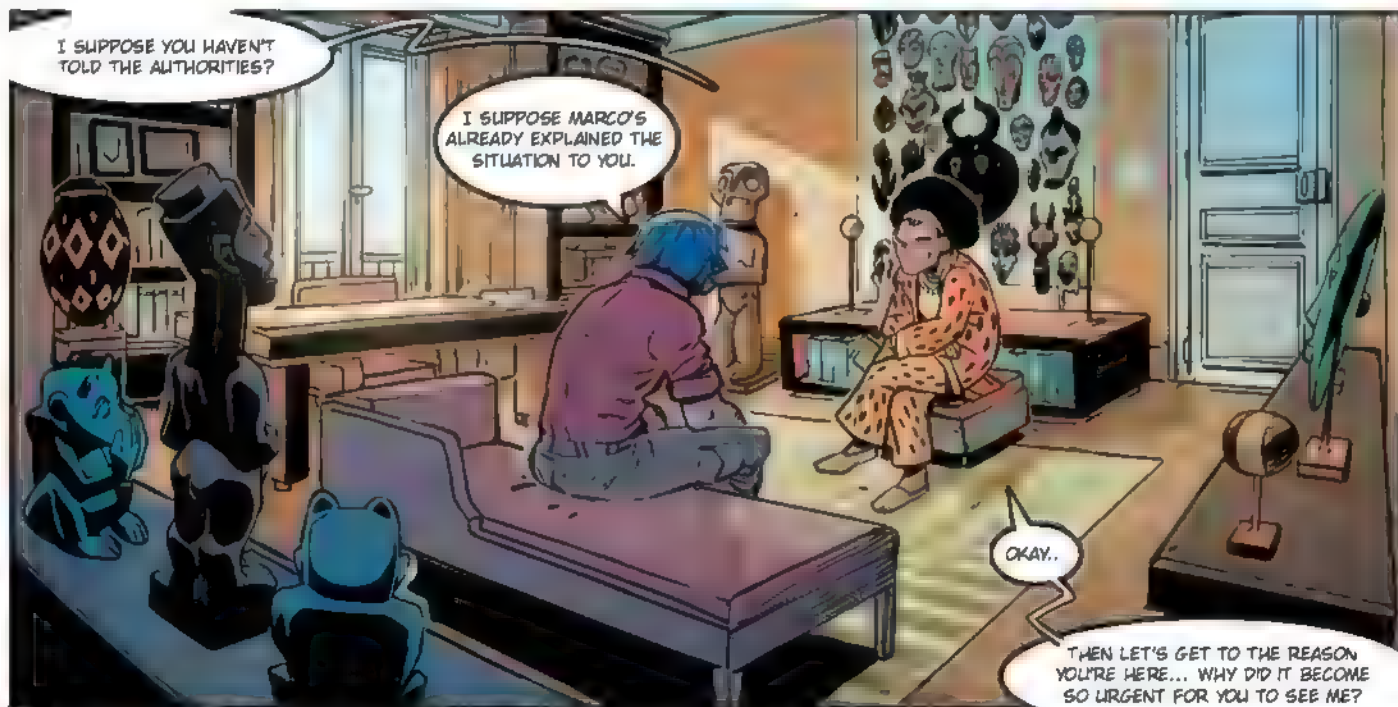
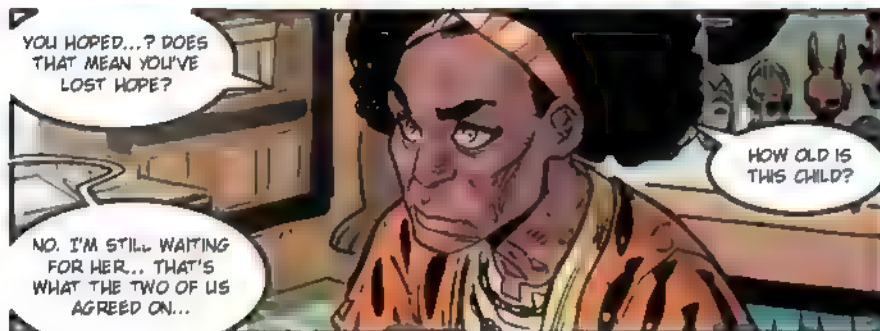
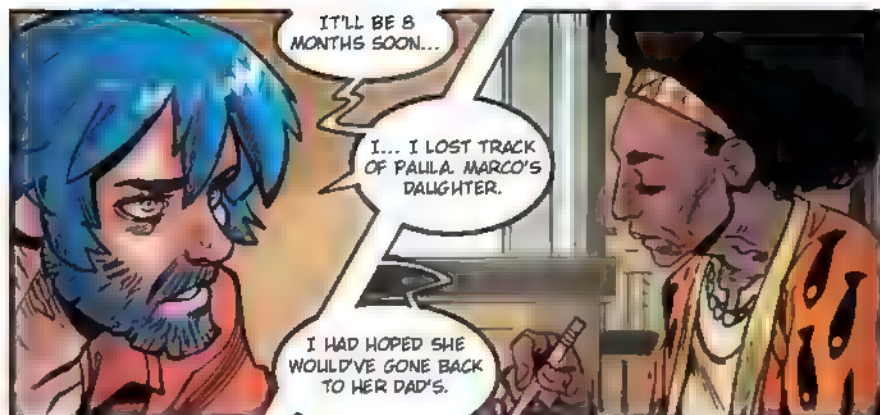
MARCO TOLD ME YOU LIVED ABROAD FOR A WHILE...



WHEN DID YOU COME BACK?









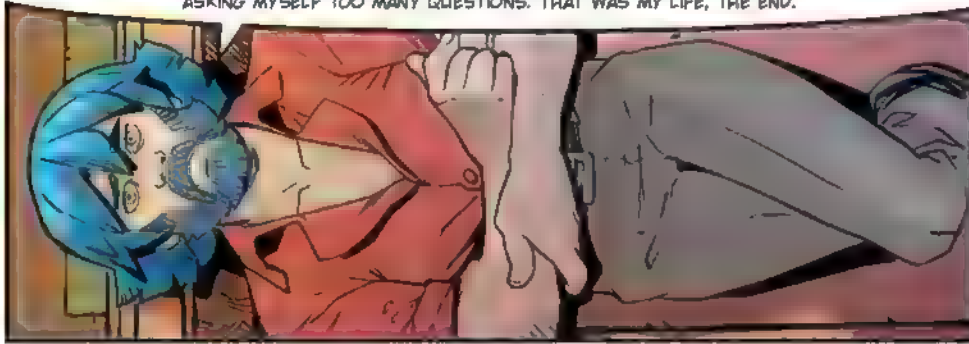


OKAY... MY STORY'S PRETTY STRANGE... I MEAN EVER SINCE MY CHILDHOOD, I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. IF I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, YOU'D PUT ME IN A STRAITJACKET BEFORE I WAS DONE TALKING.

BUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO I LOST MY POWERS AND THEN, THE LOVE OF MY LIFE GOT LOST IN A PARANOID DELUSION... SHE LIVES LIKE A RECLUSE AND REFUSES TO TALK TO ME.



I ALWAYS TOOK EVERYTHING ON MYSELF... I MEAN, I TOOK THINGS IN WITHOUT ASKING MYSELF TOO MANY QUESTIONS. THAT WAS MY LIFE, THE END.



THAT'S AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT I LOST TRACK OF PAULA... AFTER A FIGHT.

I DON'T THINK SHE STILL HATES ME.



BUT STILL, HERE I AM IN PARIS WAITING FOR HER... AND MY LIFE IS SO EMPTY... NO LOVE, NO FRIENDS, NO GOAL, AND NO...



I'M SORRY... POWERS?

YEAH, NO POWERS.

WELL, SORT OF.

I DID GET SOME POWERS, BUT NOT THE ONES THAT BELONG TO ME...

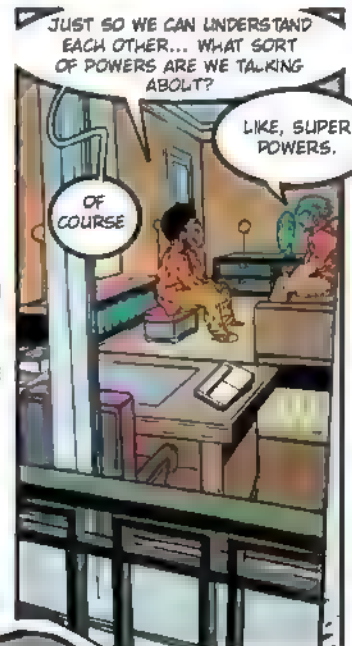


SOMEBODY ELSE MUST HAVE GOTTEN THOSE. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG NOW. IF THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO COME BACK TO ME THEY WOULD HAVE BY NOW.

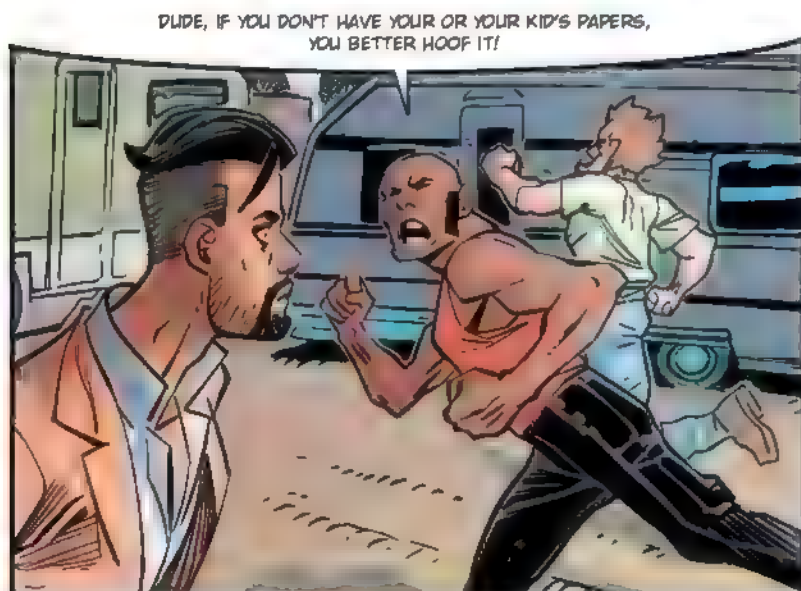
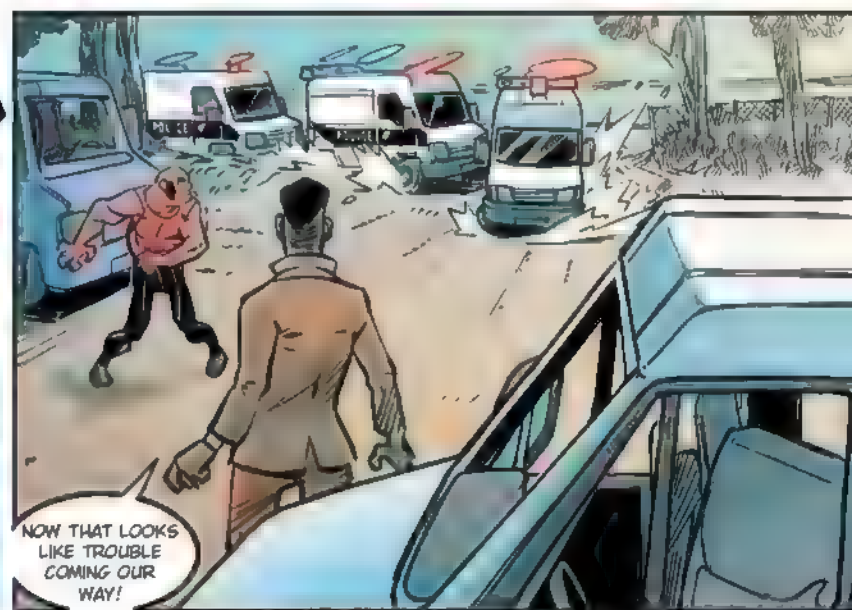
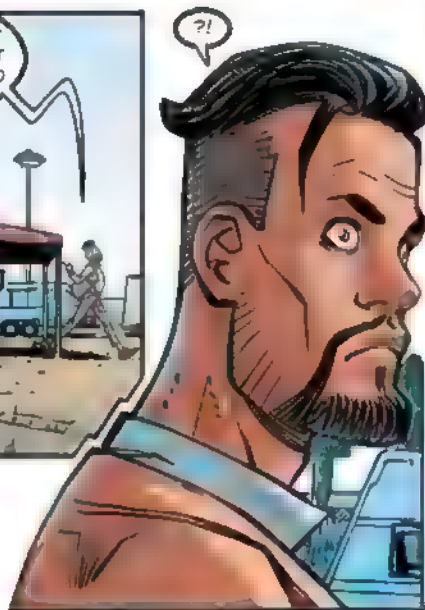
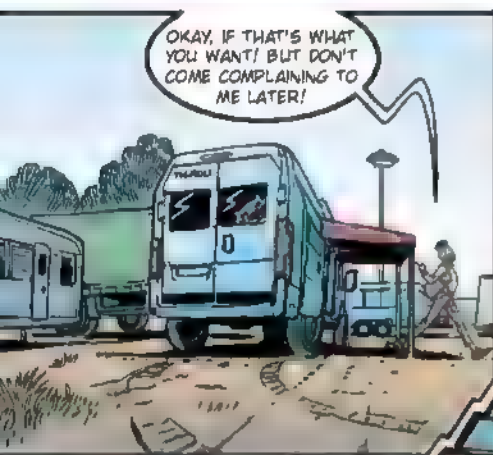
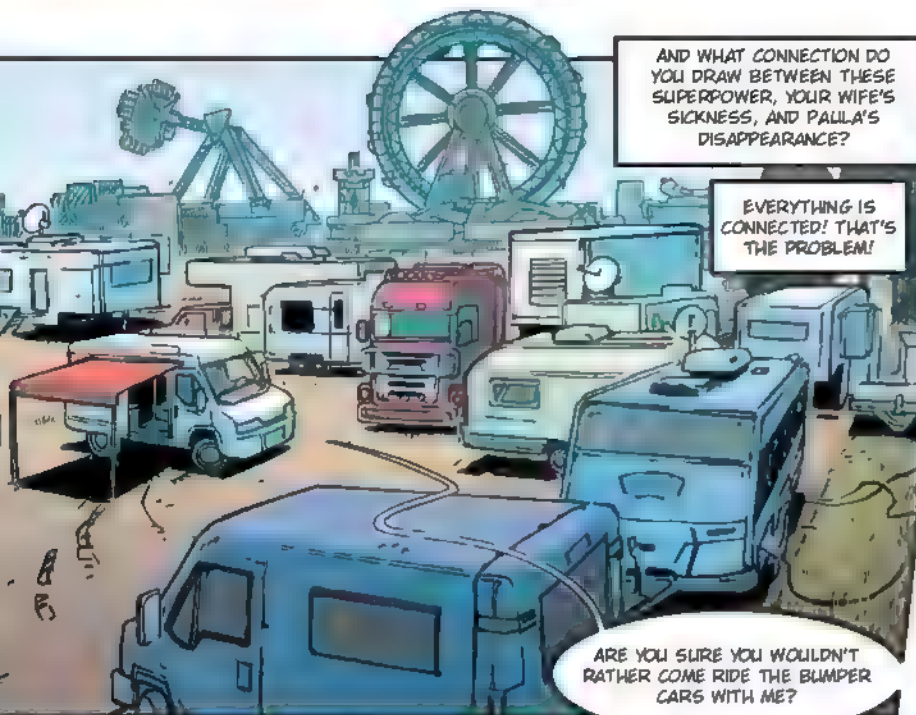
JUST SO WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER... WHAT SORT OF POWERS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

LIKE, SUPER POWERS.

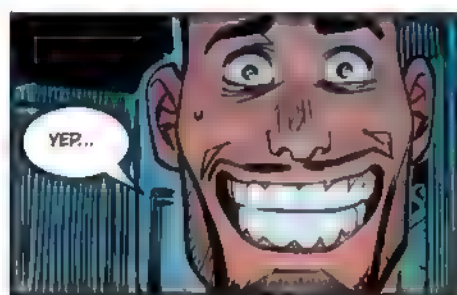
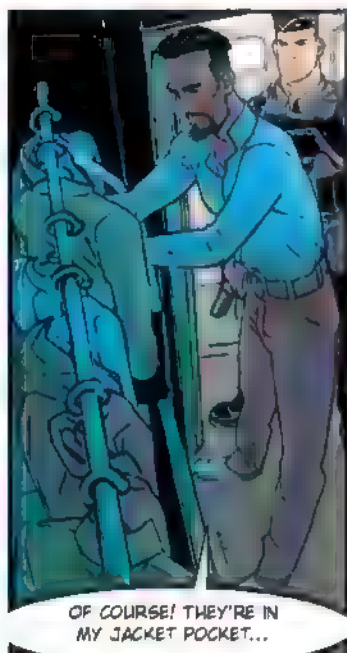
OF COURSE



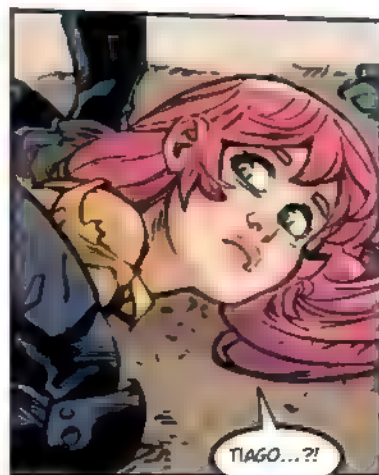
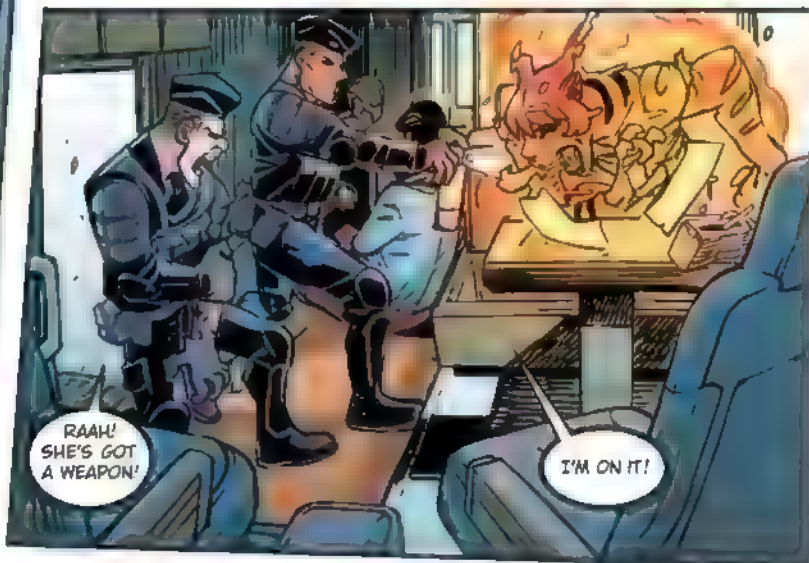




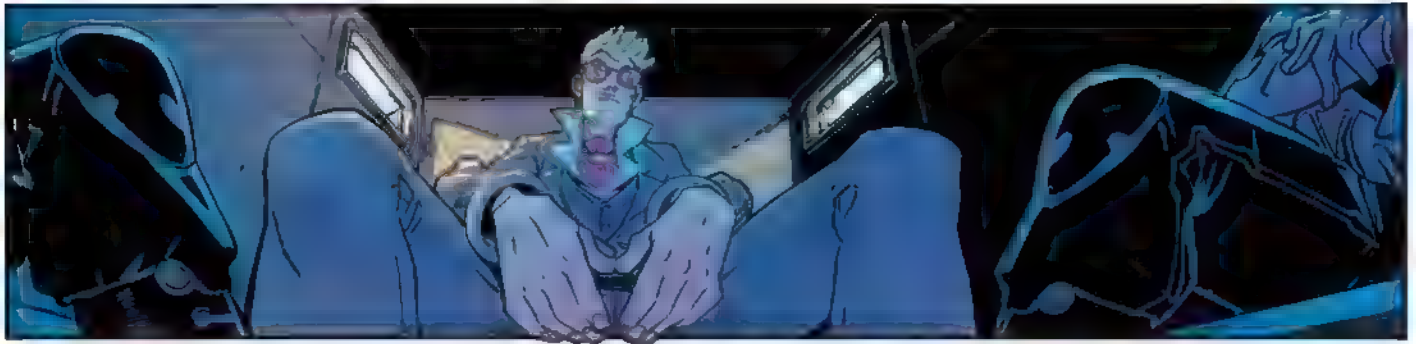








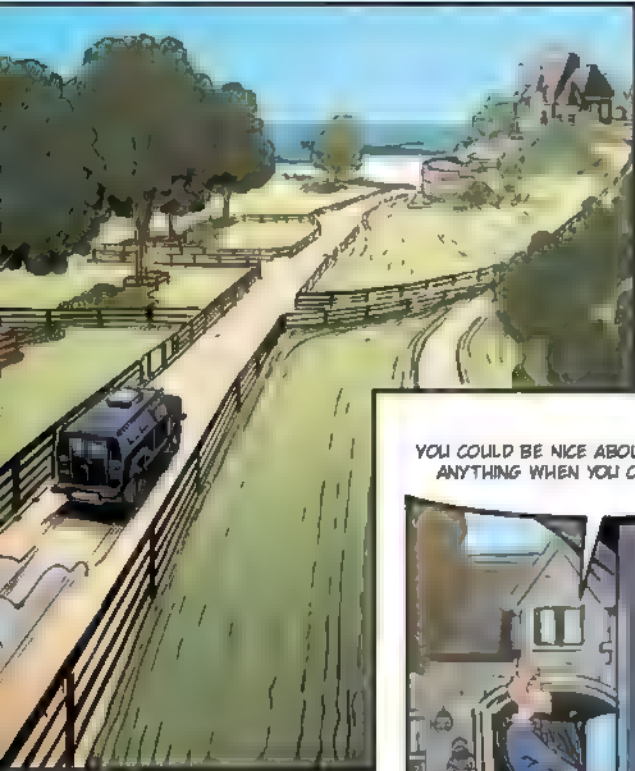




CAN SOMEONE TELL ME  
WHERE I AM OR NOT?



WE'RE GOING TO GO WITH  
"OR NOT"... AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.



YOU COULD BE NICE ABOUT IT! I DIDN'T TRY  
ANYTHING WHEN YOU CAME TO GET ME.



I WOULD'VE  
LIKED TO SEE THAT

HELLO, SHAAZ DID  
YOU HAVE A GOOD  
TRIP?

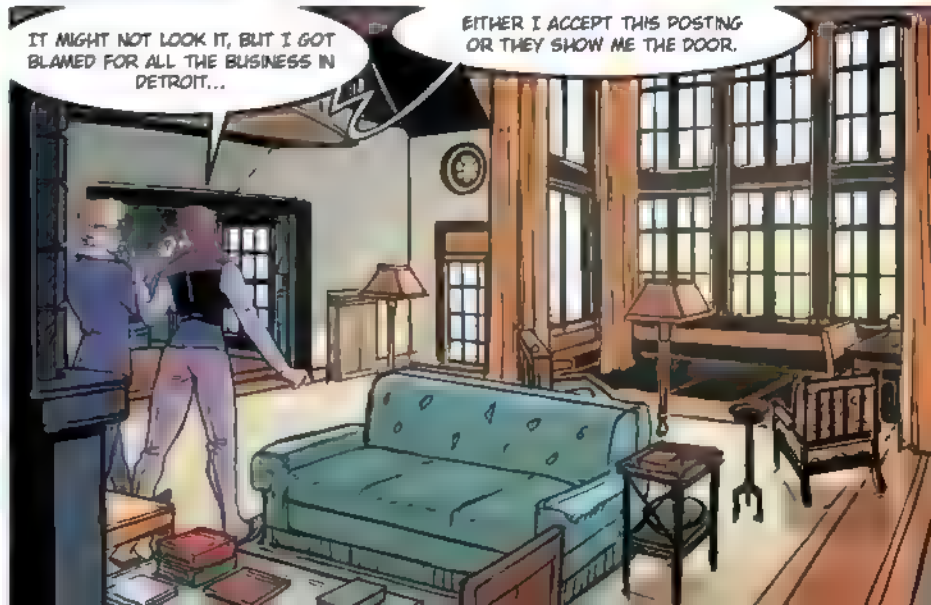


BOZULICH? WHAT'S THE  
MEANING OF THIS?

YOU CAN UNCUFF HIM. FROM NOW  
ON HE'S MY RESPONSIBILITY.

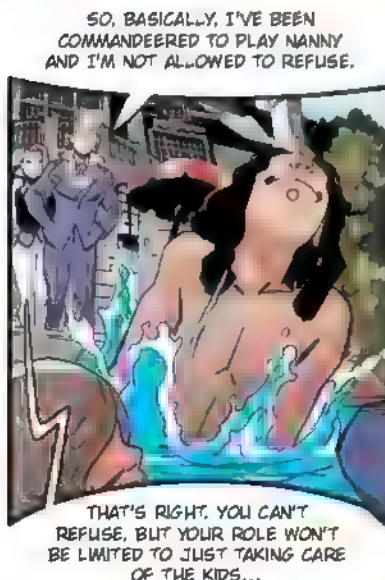
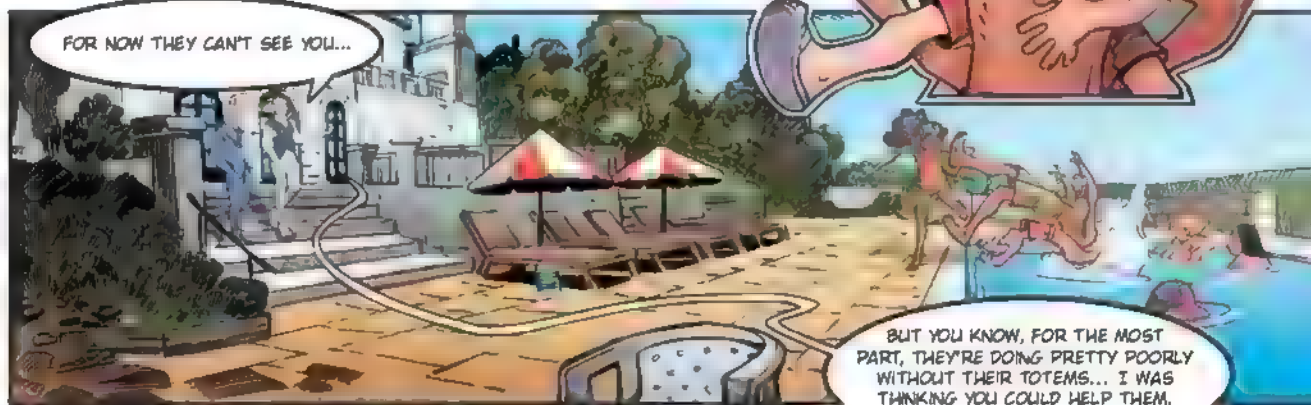
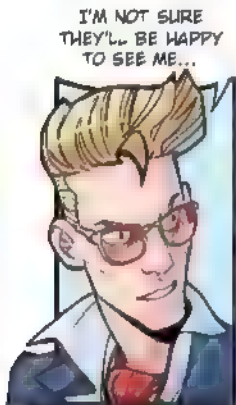
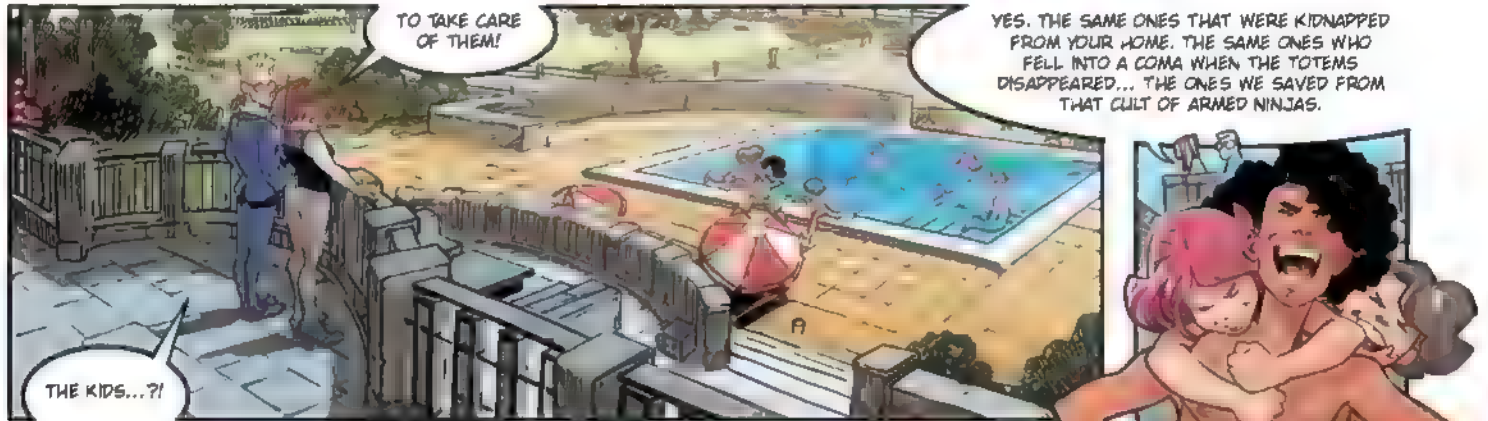


IT MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT I GOT  
BLAMED FOR ALL THE BUSINESS IN  
DETROIT...



EITHER I ACCEPT THIS POSTING  
OR THEY SHOW ME THE DOOR.



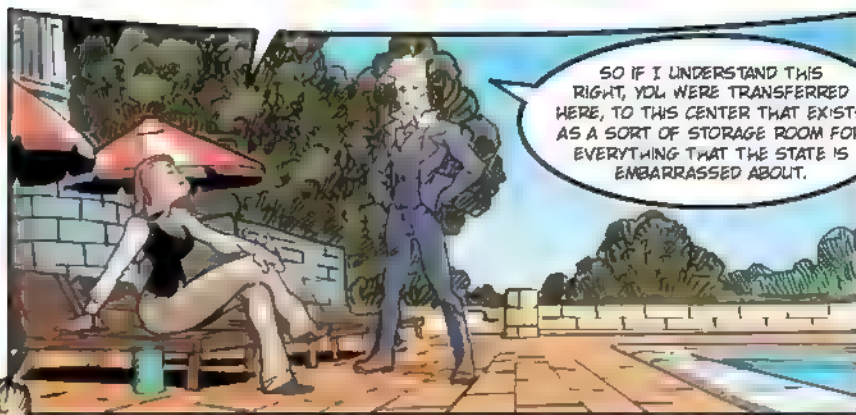




AND THAT THING... THE FORCEFIELD...  
IS THAT WHY THE KIDS CAN'T SEE US?

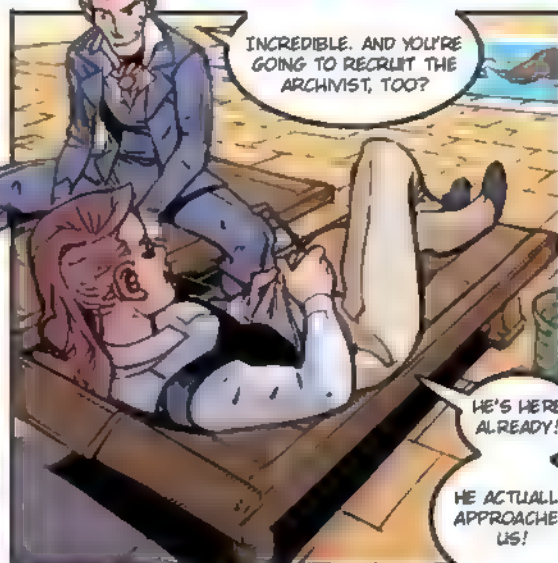
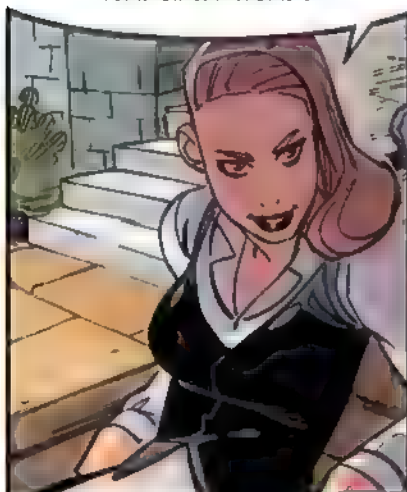


YES. WE PUT A LOT OF LITTLE THINGS IN PLACE TO PROTECT THEM. LIKE I WAS  
SAYING, THEY'RE NOT READY TO GET BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE JUST YET.



SO IF I UNDERSTAND THIS  
RIGHT, YOU WERE TRANSFERRED  
HERE, TO THIS CENTER THAT EXISTS  
AS A SORT OF STORAGE ROOM FOR  
EVERYTHING THAT THE STATE IS  
EMBARRASSED ABOUT.

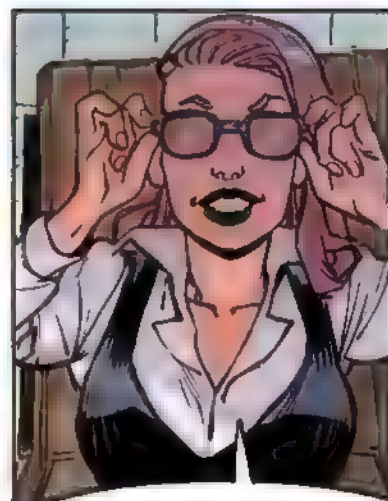
EXACTLY. EVERYTHING CONNECTED TO  
THE DIZHIS AND EVERYTHING THAT DEFIES  
RATIONAL EXPLANATION.



INCREDIBLE. AND YOU'RE  
GOING TO RECRUIT THE  
ARCHIVIST, TOO?

HE'S HERE  
ALREADY!

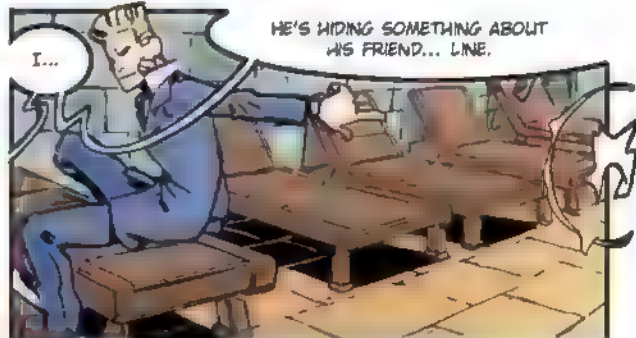
HE ACTUALLY  
APPROACHED  
US!



HE SHARED ALL HIS  
KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT.

SO I'M THE ONE  
WHO'S GOING TO  
LEARN FROM YOU.

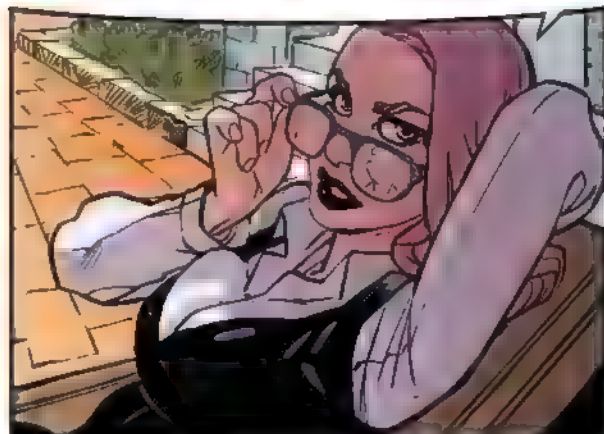
I'LL BE FRANK WITH YOU, SHAAZ.  
EVEN THOUGH THE ARCHIVIST HAS  
HELPED US A GREAT DEAL, I'M  
CONVINCED HE HASN'T TOLD US  
EVERYTHING.



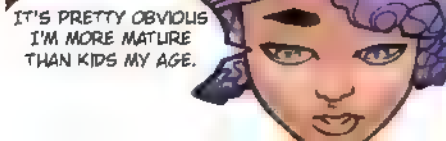
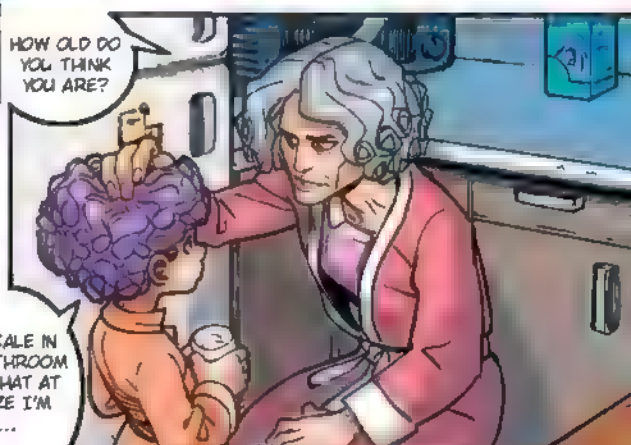
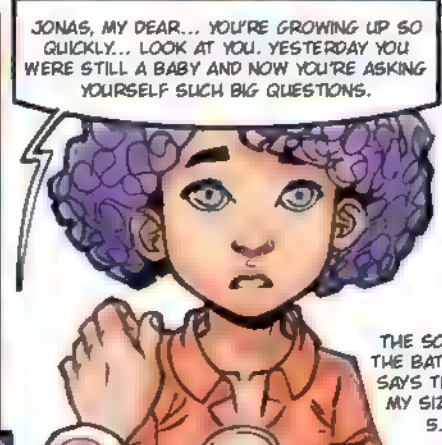
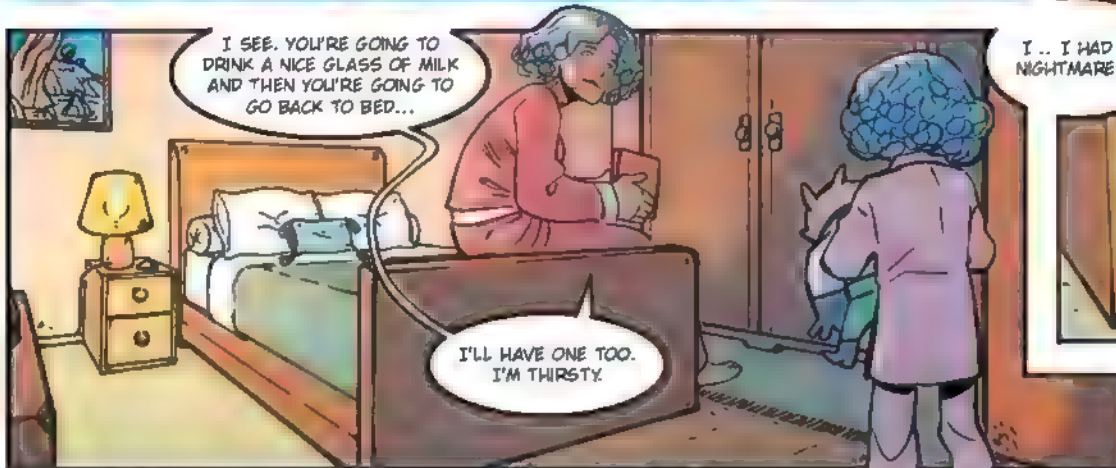
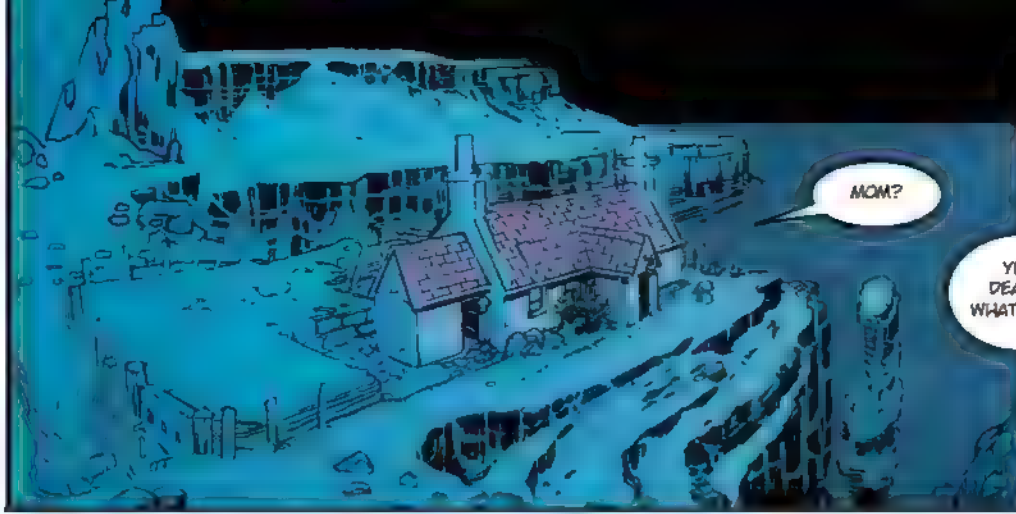
I...

HE'S HIDING SOMETHING ABOUT  
HIS FRIEND... LINE.

HE'S SAID SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO THE DIZHIS ...  
BUT HE'S PROTECTING HER TOO MUCH FOR THAT TO BE TRUE.

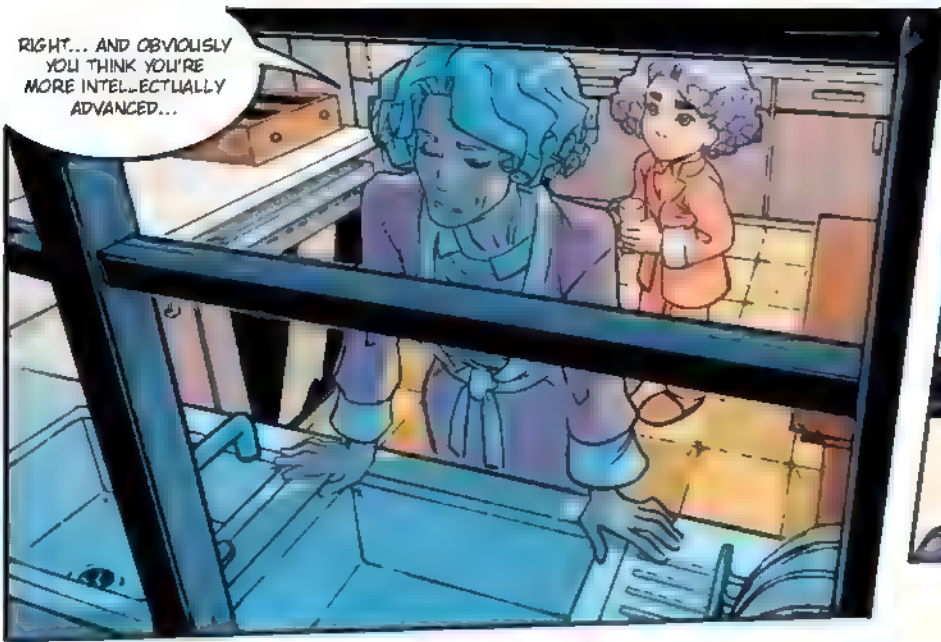




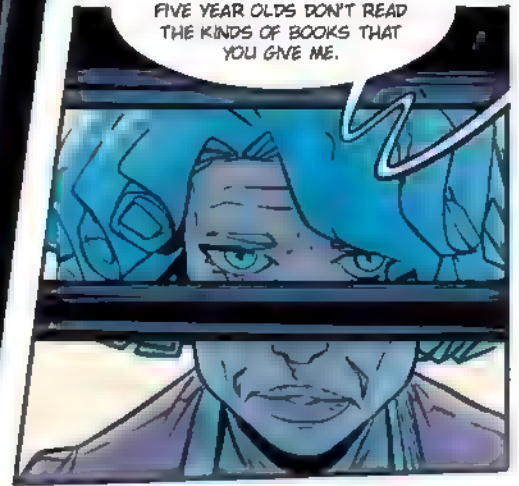




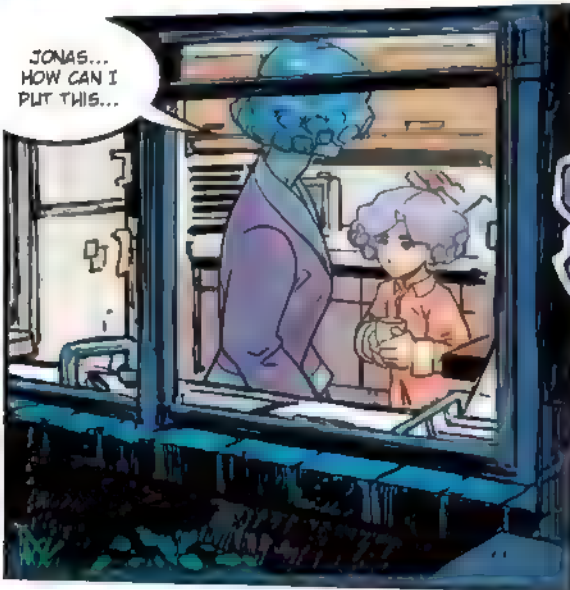
RIGHT... AND OBVIOUSLY  
YOU THINK YOU'RE  
MORE INTELLECTUALLY  
ADVANCED...



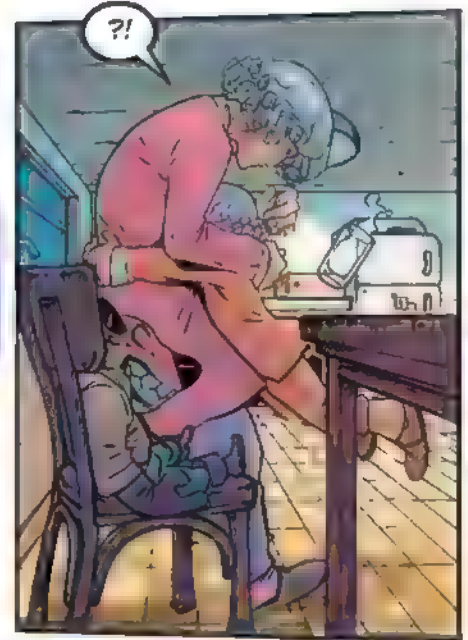
FIVE YEAR OLDS DON'T READ  
THE KINDS OF BOOKS THAT  
YOU GIVE ME.



JONAS...  
HOW CAN I  
PUT THIS...



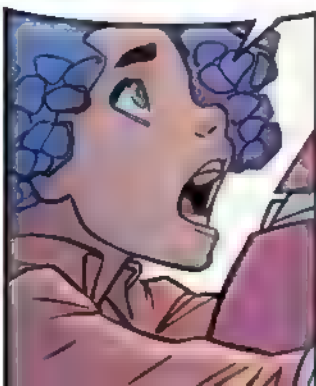
...YOU'RE JUST  
A YEAR AND A  
HALF OLD.



I'M VERY  
PROUD OF  
YOU.

BUT I THINK  
YOU UNDERSTAND  
THAT THIS SHOULD  
REMAIN OUR  
SECRET...

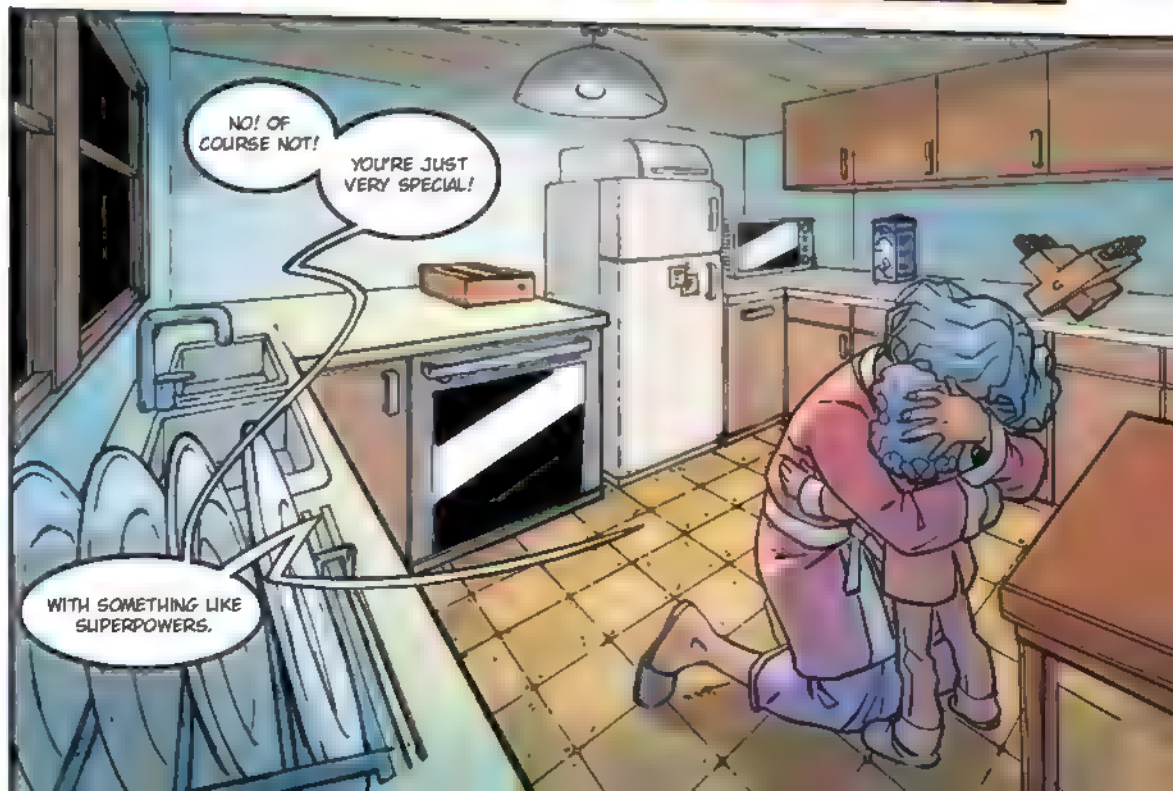
DOES THAT MEAN I'M GOING  
TO DIE QUICKLY, TOOT?



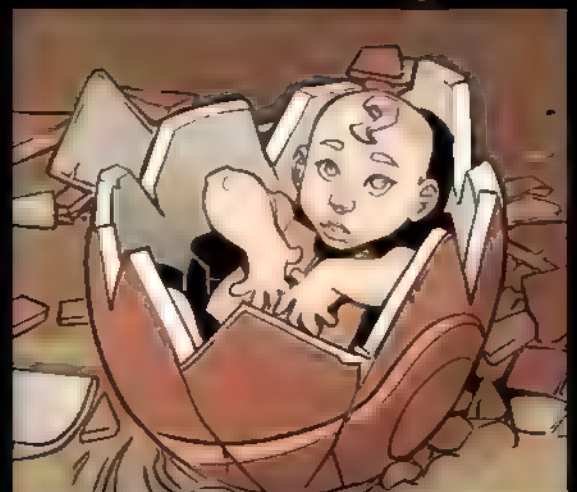
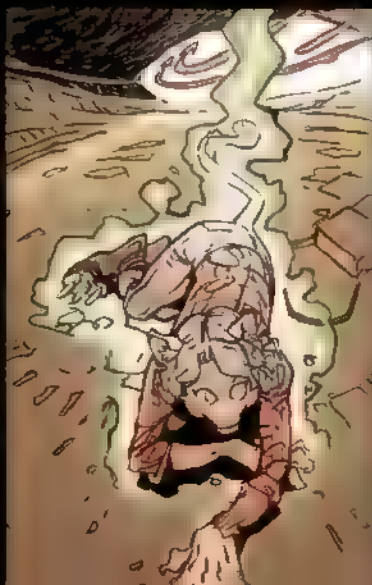
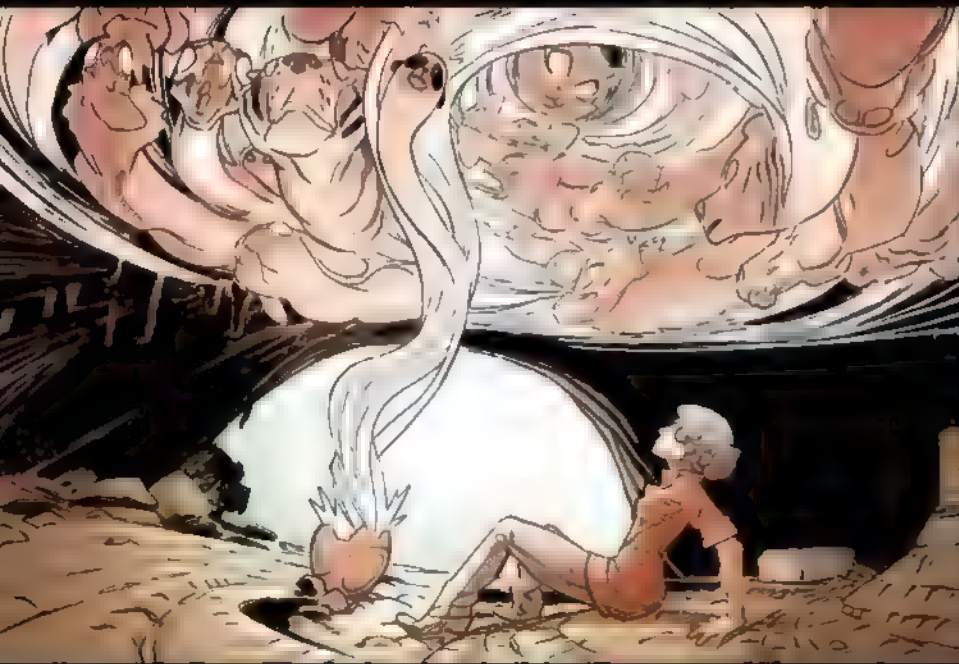
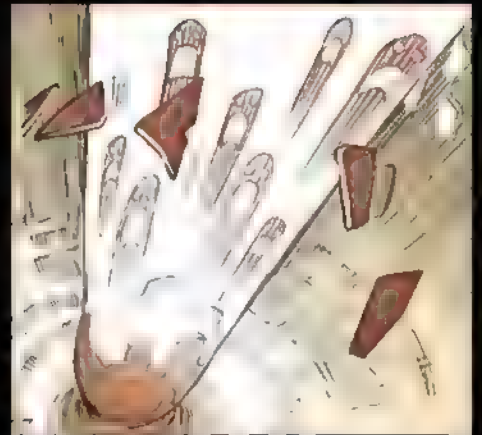
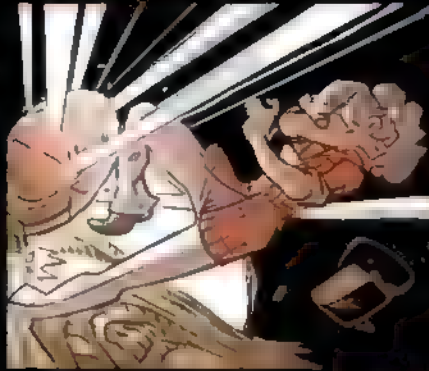
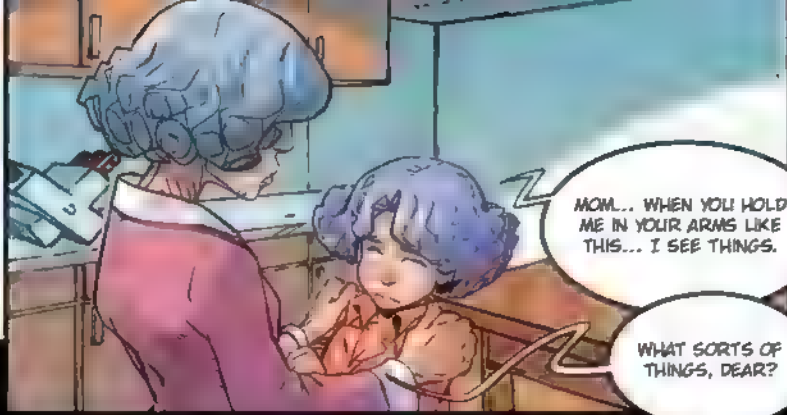
NO! OF  
COURSE NOT!

YOU'RE JUST  
VERY SPECIAL!

WITH SOMETHING LIKE  
SUPERPOWERS.









THAT'S RIGHT, JUST  
RELAX, ANGE...

I'M GOING TO COUNT TO THREE.  
ON THREE, YOU WILL GO SOMEWHERE  
SAFE. A COCOON WHERE NOTHING  
CAN TOUCH YOU.

ONE ..  
YOUR EYELIDS  
ARE HEAVY.

TWO..  
YOU CAN'T FEEL  
YOUR ARMS OR  
YOUR LEGS.

THREE...  
SLEEP.

WHERE ARE  
YOU ANGE?

I'M... I'M IN  
MY CHILDHOOD  
BEDROOM IN  
CHICAGO.

GOOD... YOU TOLD ME  
ABOUT YOUR POWERS... DO  
YOU HAVE YOUR POWERS IN  
THIS ROOM?

I... I CAN SEE THEM, BUT  
THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'RE FROM  
ANOTHER TIME...

AND YOUR NEW  
POWERS? DO YOU  
SEE THEM TOO?

YES...  
THEY'RE  
HERE

HOW ARE  
THEY?

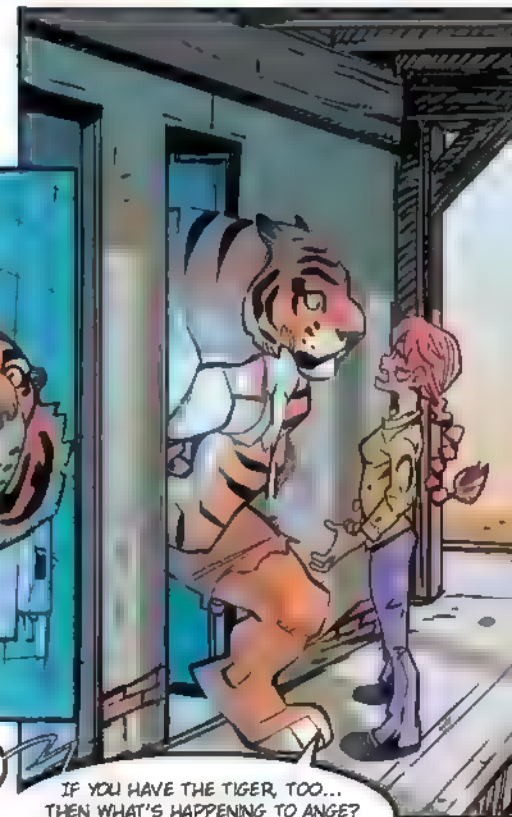
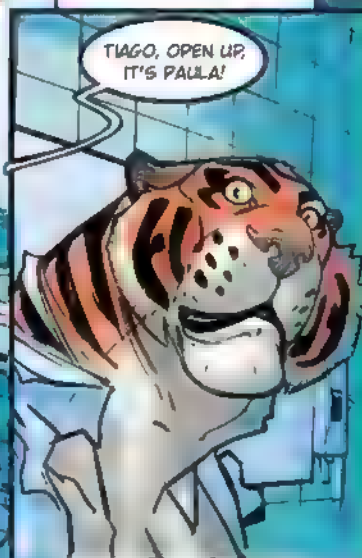
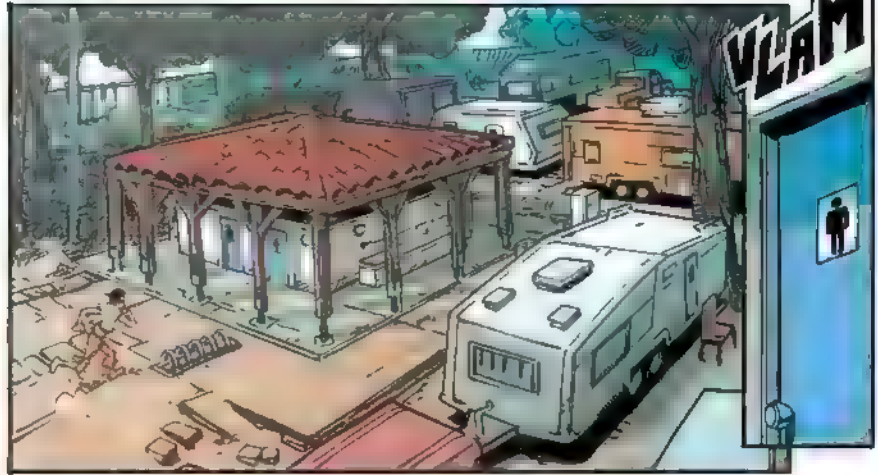
THEY SEEM  
TOO... SMALL.  
I'M RELUCTANT TO  
TAKE THEM...

TRY THEM  
ANYWAYS.

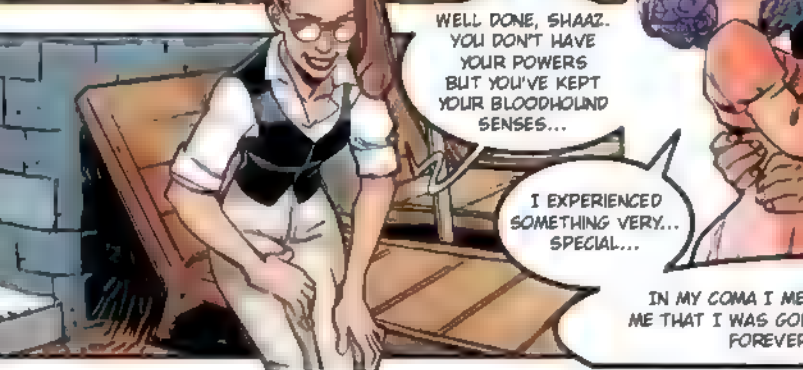
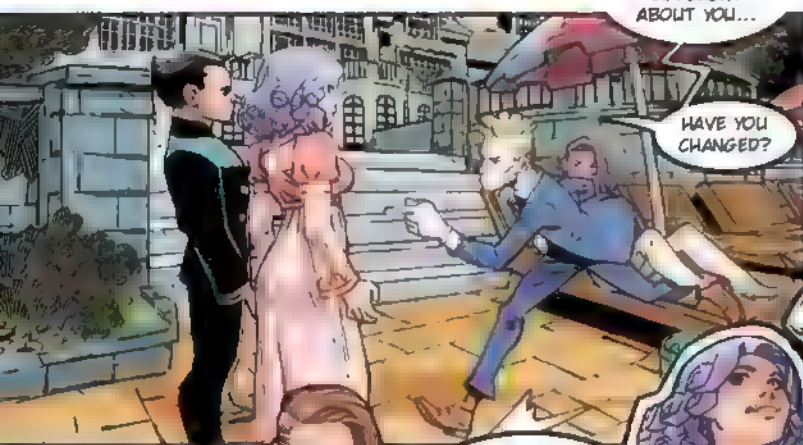
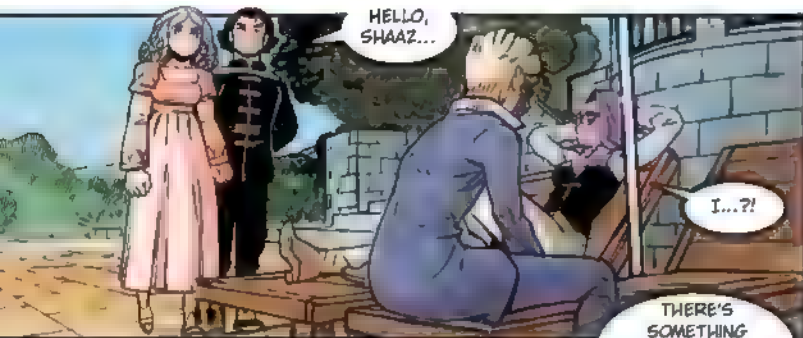




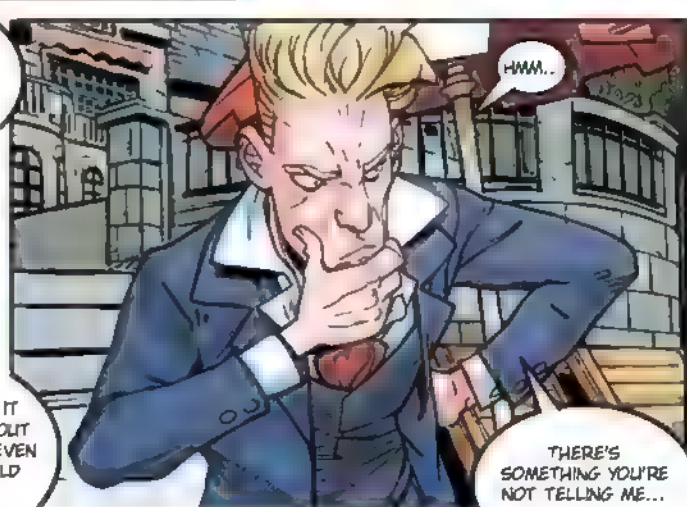
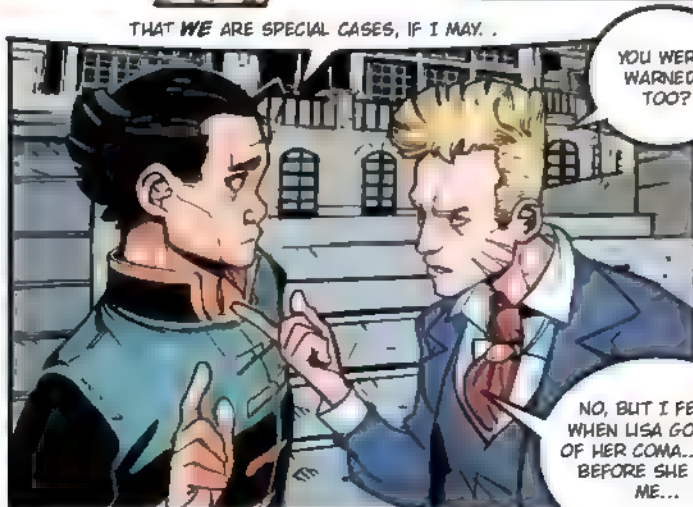




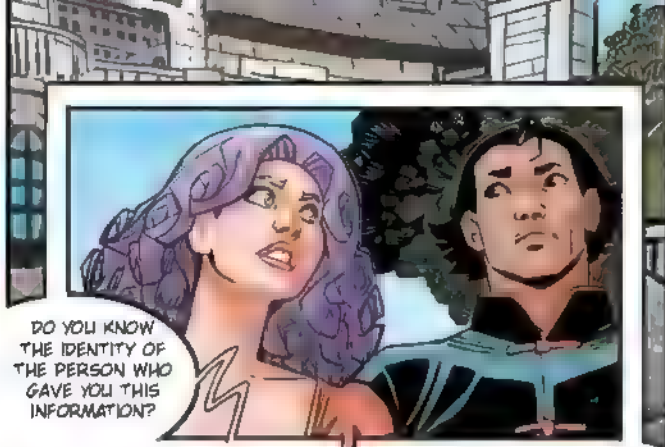




IN MY COMA I MET SOMEONE WHO TOLD ME THAT I WAS GOING TO LOSE MY POWERS FOREVER. I'M FREE...







DO YOU KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON WHO GAVE YOU THIS INFORMATION?

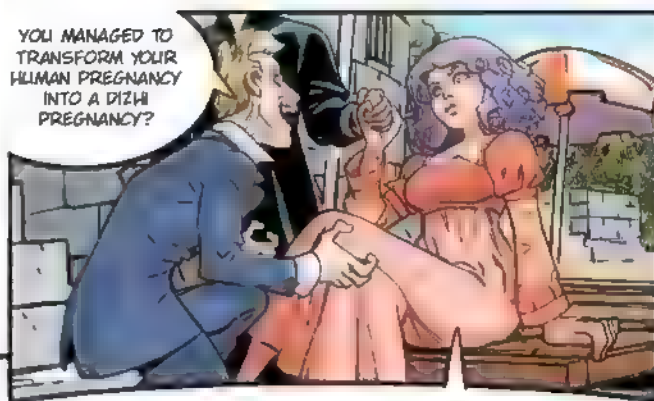
WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT IT BECAUSE IT'S NOT FOR CERTAIN...

YOU HAVE A KID?

BUT LISA THINKS SHE SPOKE TO OUR SON.

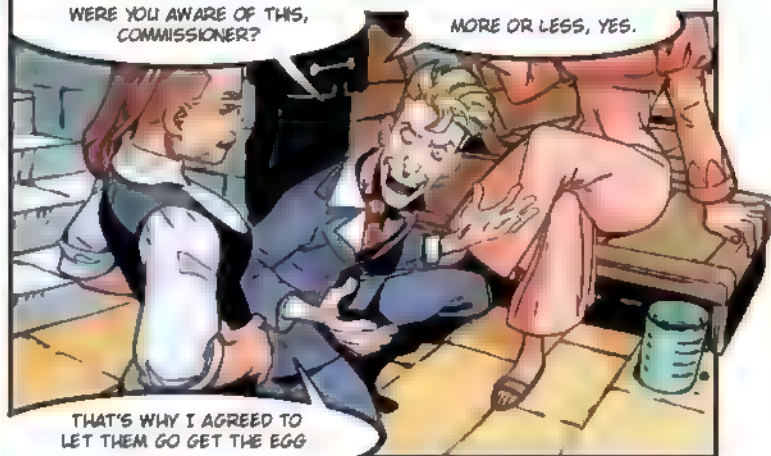


IT'S COMPLICATED... WHEN THE MEN IN BLACK ATTACKED US... LISA, AS A SNAKE, HID HER EGG TO PROTECT IT.



YOU MANAGED TO TRANSFORM YOUR HUMAN PREGNANCY INTO A DIZHI PREGNANCY?

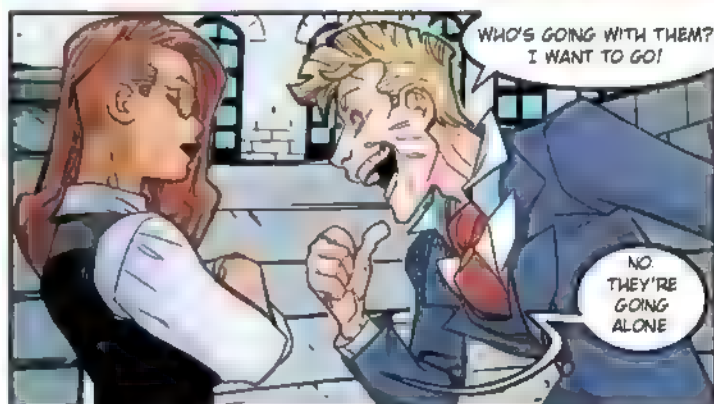
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED. IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST.



WERE YOU AWARE OF THIS, COMMISSIONER?

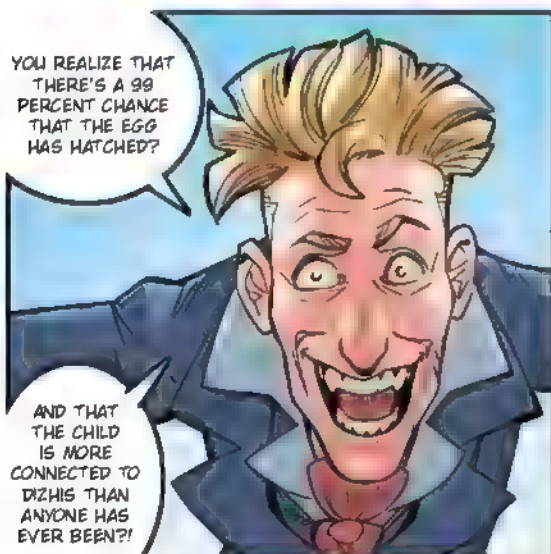
MORE OR LESS, YES.

THAT'S WHY I AGREED TO LET THEM GO GET THE EGG



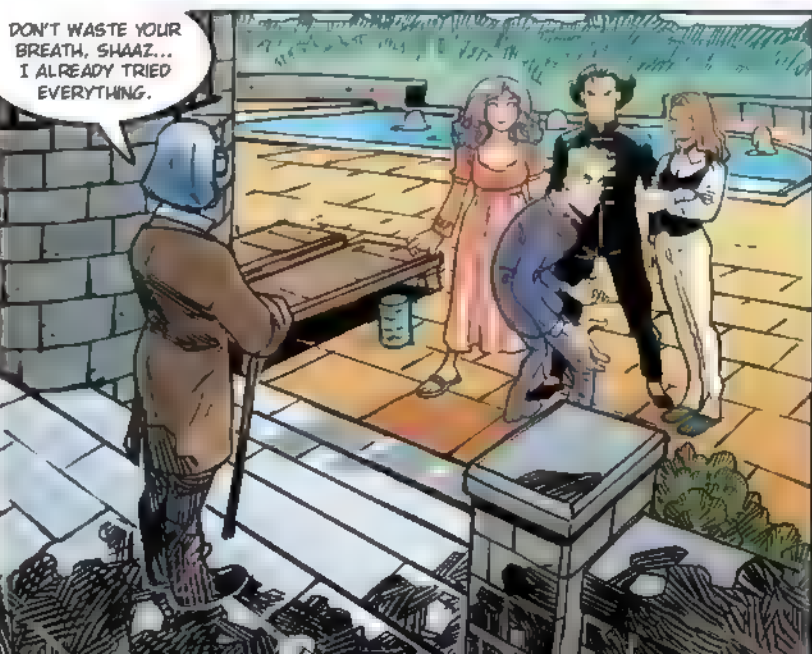
WHO'S GOING WITH THEM? I WANT TO GO!

NO THEY'RE GOING ALONE



YOU REALIZE THAT THERE'S A 99 PERCENT CHANCE THAT THE EGG HAS HATCHED?

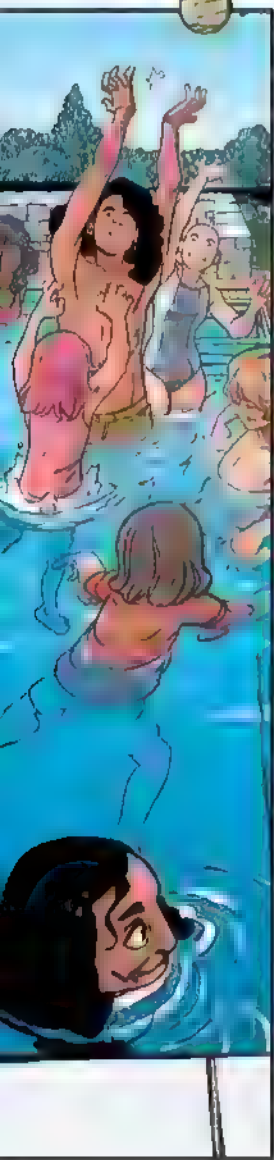
AND THAT THE CHILD IS MORE CONNECTED TO DIZHI THAN ANYONE HAS EVER BEEN?!



DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, SHAAZ... I ALREADY TRIED EVERYTHING.



BOZULICH  
TRUSTS THEM  
300%.

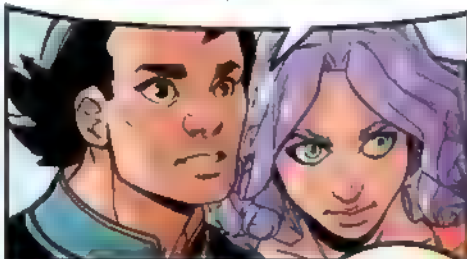


WE THINK THAT WE SHOULDN'T OVERWHELM  
THE CHILD... ONCE WE HAVE HIM,  
WE'LL COME BACK HERE.

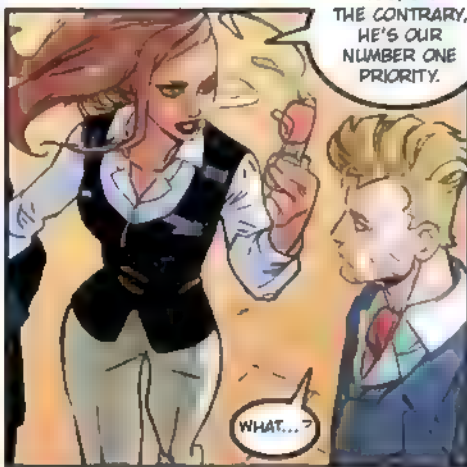
WE ARE TALKING  
ABOUT A KID WHO  
WAS CONSCIOUS  
BEFORE HE WAS  
EVEN BORN.



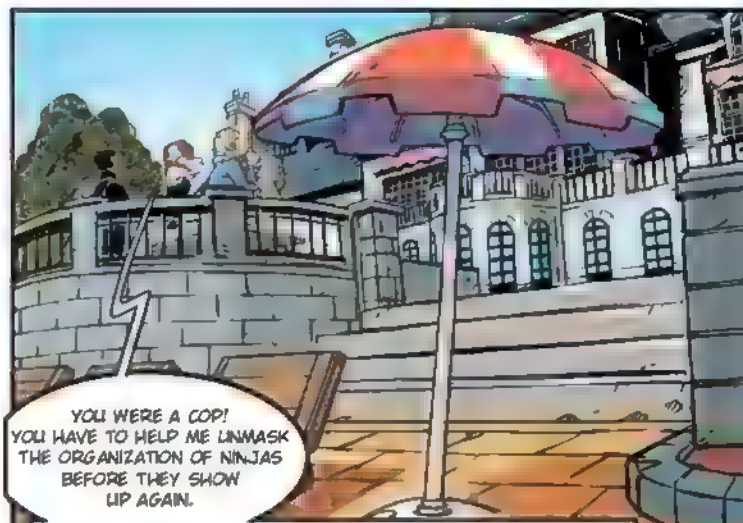
EVEN IF, TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, HE DIDN'T LOSE  
ANYTHING AT BIRTH, HE'S NOT A DANGER.



YES, ON  
THE CONTRARY,  
HE'S OUR  
NUMBER ONE  
PRIORITY.



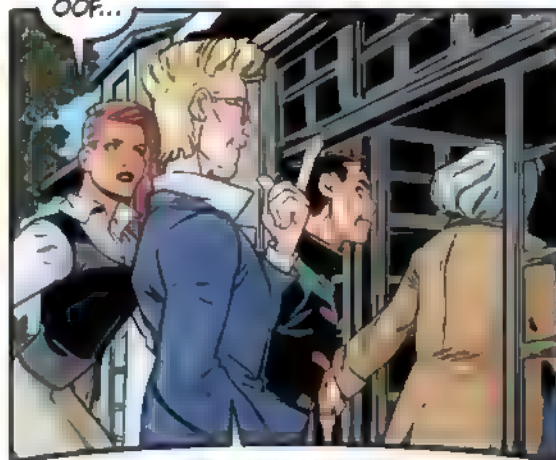
WHAT...?



YOU WERE A COP!  
YOU HAVE TO HELP ME UNMASK  
THE ORGANIZATION OF NINJAS  
BEFORE THEY SHOW  
UP AGAIN.



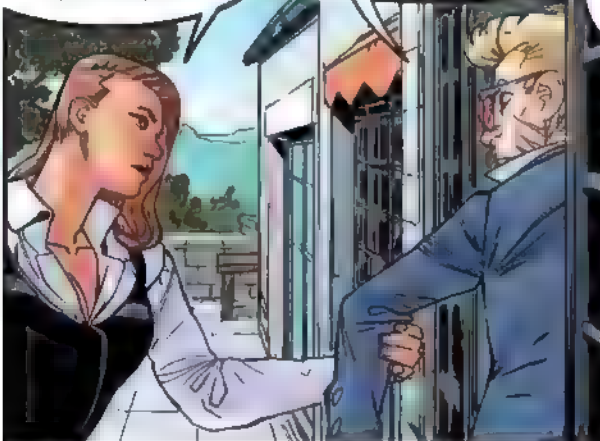
I ALREADY HAVE MY  
SUSPICIONS.



OOF...

THEY WON'T COME HERE.  
EVEN FOR THEM, IT'S TOO RISKY.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK  
THEY ALREADY KNOW  
WHERE WE ARE?



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE  
YOUR ENEMY'S FORCES!

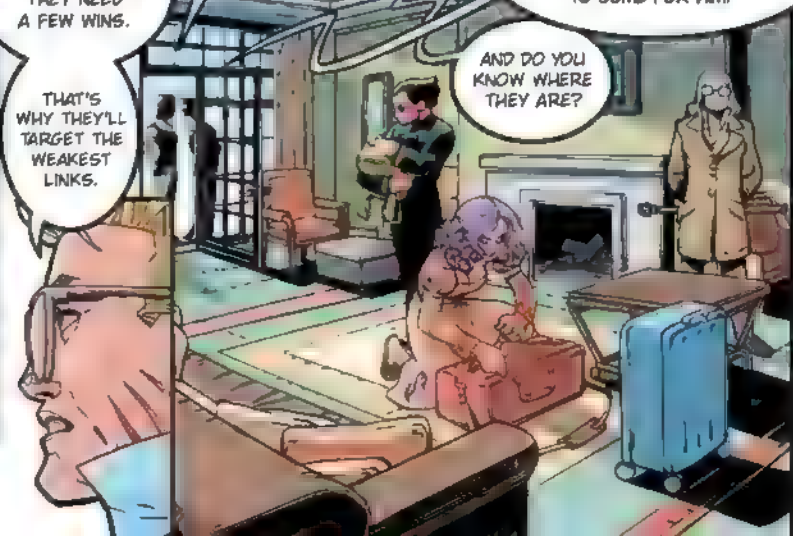
BEFORE THEY COME FOR YOU  
THEY NEED  
A FEW WINS.

THAT'S  
WHY THEY'LL  
TARGET THE  
WEAKEST  
LINKS.

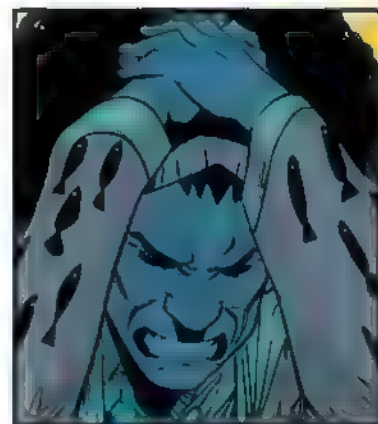
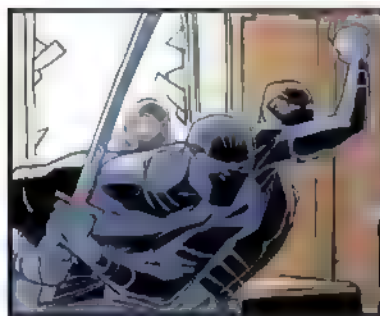
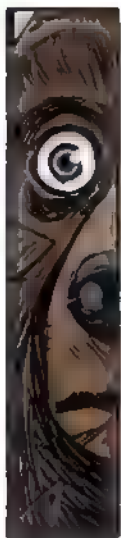
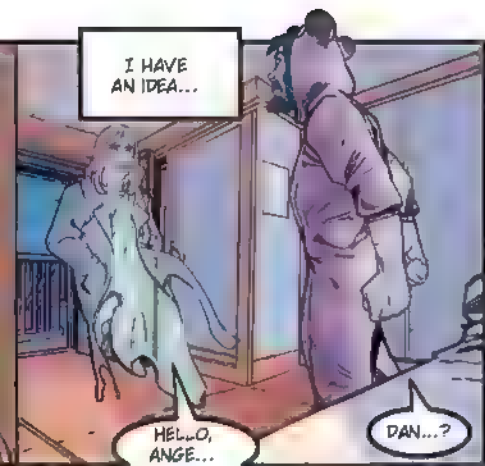
THE OLD DIZHI HOSTS...

FIND ANGE AND YOU'LL JUST  
HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NINJAS  
TO COME FOR HIM.

AND DO YOU  
KNOW WHERE  
THEY ARE?





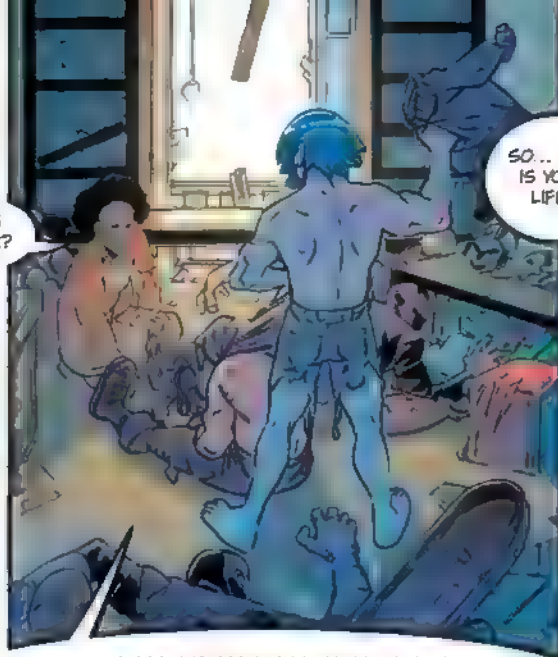






IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!

IT'S OVER?



SO... THIS IS YOUR LIFE?



FOR TOO LONG NOW, YEAH.

OKAY, I UNDERSTAND.

YOU HAVE TO KEEP COMING TO TALK TO ME

I GET THE FEELING IT WON'T STAY SO FOR LONG. THAT WAS PROBABLY JUST THE FIRST ATTACK.

DO YOU MIND IF I GO TAKE CARE OF A FEW PROBLEMS FIRST...?



YES... OF COURSE.



I'M OFF. DON'T STAY HERE. YOU NEVER KNOW.

DO I... OWE YOU SOMETHING?

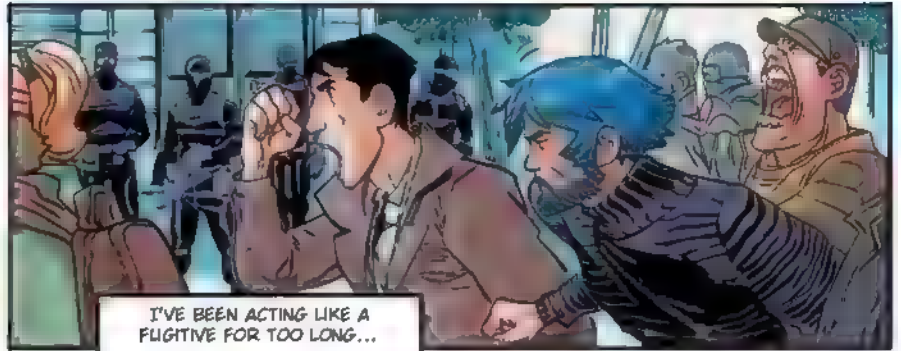


NO. YOU CAN PAY NEXT TIME...





IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE  
MATTERS INTO MY OWN  
HANDS.



I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A  
FUGITIVE FOR TOO LONG...

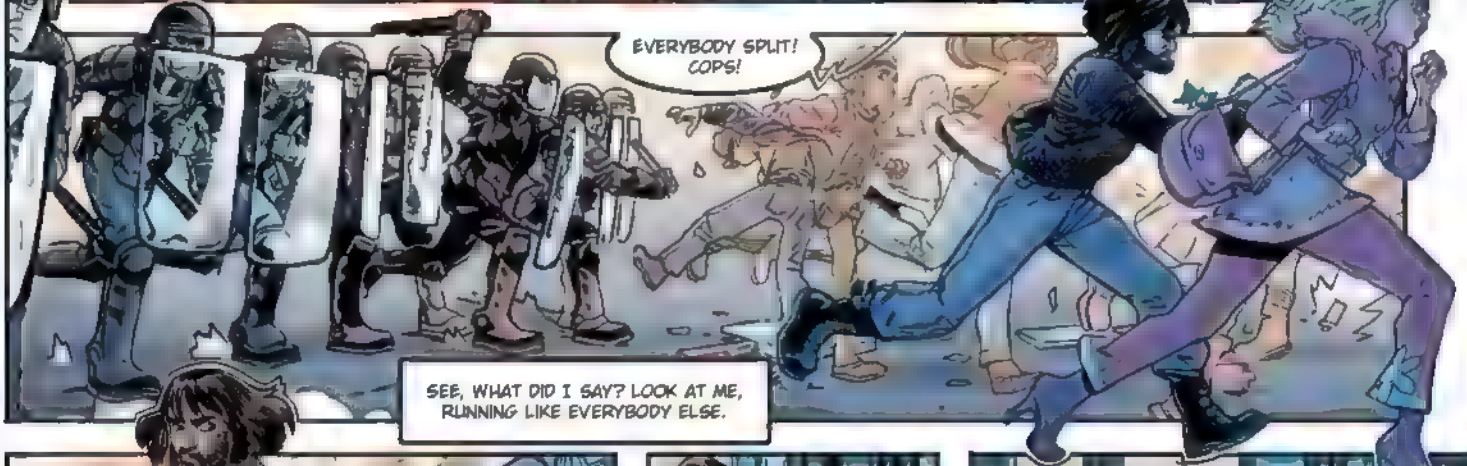


AT BEST, ALL I'M DOING IS REACTING TO EVENTS.



THEY'RE  
CHARGING!

WHAT?!



EVERYBODY SPLIT!  
COPS!

SEE, WHAT DID I SAY? LOOK AT ME,  
RUNNING LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.



THIS HAS TO  
STOP NOW.

EVEN WITHOUT THE  
TIGER TOTEM, I'M  
STILL THE KLAU!



AND THE KLAU IS  
A SUPERHERO!





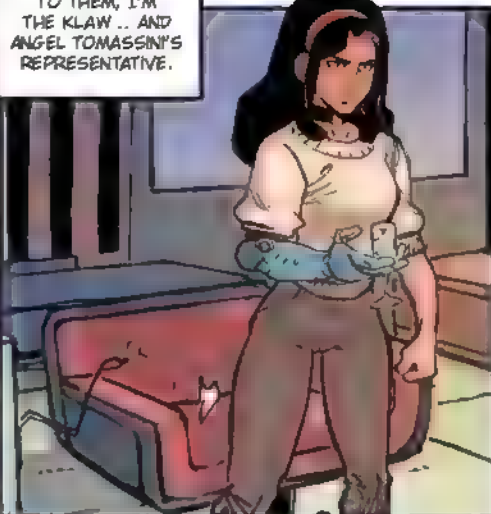


THIS IS GREAT!

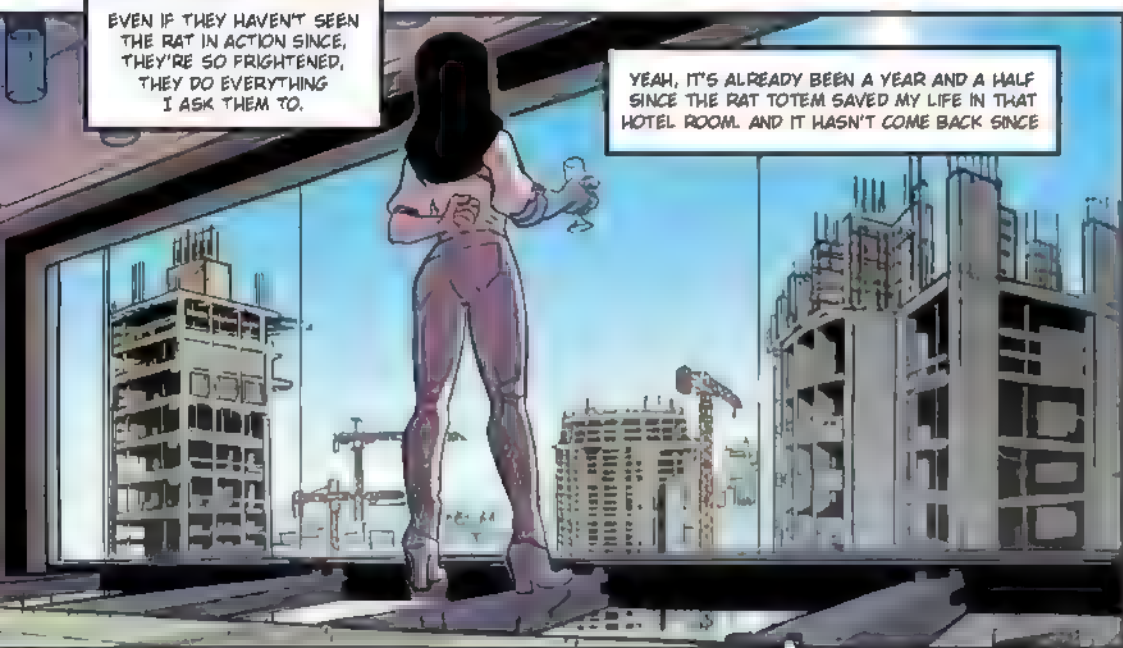
FOR THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF, GAMBINO AND HIS CREW HAVE BEEN EATING OUT OF MY HAND.



TO THEM, I'M THE KLAU... AND ANGEL TOMASSIN'S REPRESENTATIVE.

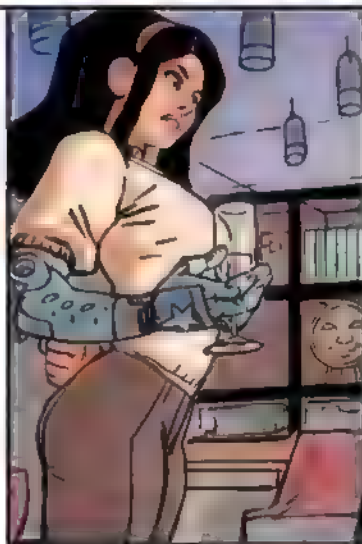


EVEN IF THEY HAVEN'T SEEN THE RAT IN ACTION SINCE, THEY'RE SO FRIGHTENED, THEY DO EVERYTHING I ASK THEM TO.



YEAH, IT'S ALREADY BEEN A YEAR AND A HALF SINCE THE RAT TOTEM SAVED MY LIFE IN THAT HOTEL ROOM. AND IT HASN'T COME BACK SINCE

I CAN FORGET ABOUT THAT, BUT I STILL HAVE MY ARM AND THE KLAU COSTUME! IT'S A PERFECT SMOKE SCREEN.



IT'S BEEN 7 MONTHS SINCE I LEFT THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT THINKING THEY WERE SAFE... BUT IF THE HUNTERS FOUND ME, THERE'S A CHANCE THEY'LL BE FOUND, TOO.



YES?  
ANGE?

HOW ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU?

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. RIGHT NOW I JUST NEED HELP.

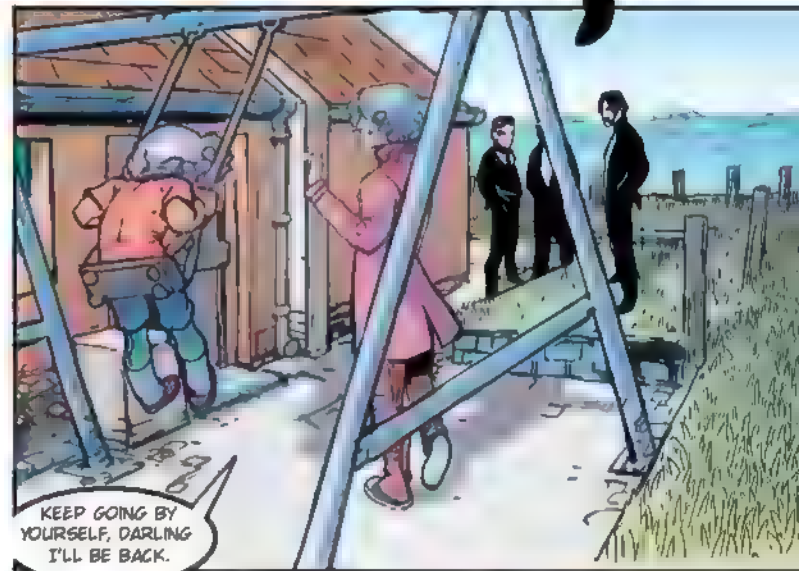
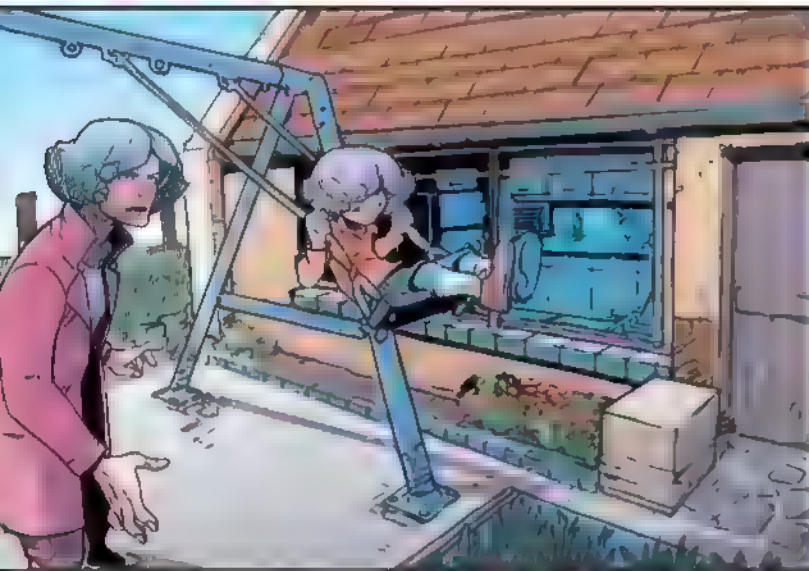
FIRST, I NEED YOU TO VISIT GAMBINO. I NEED MONEY.



THEN, I NEED YOU TO PICK UP EWA AND JUNE.



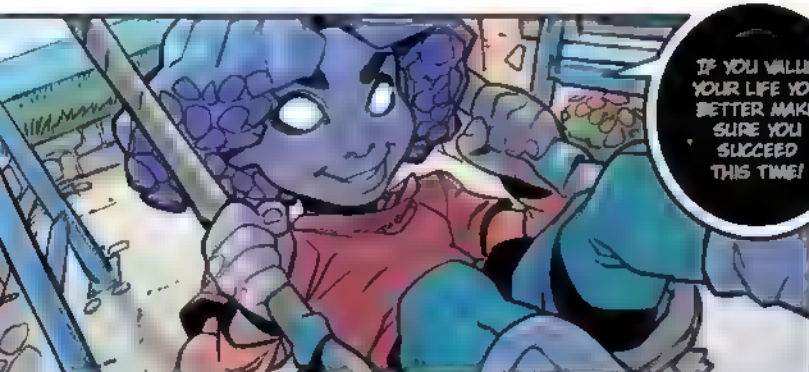




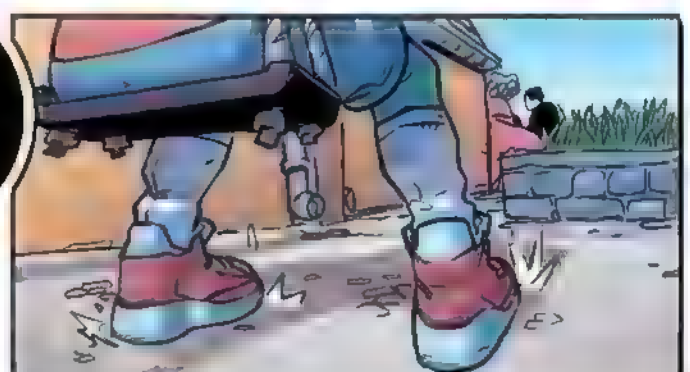
KEEP GOING BY YOURSELF, DARLING I'LL BE BACK.



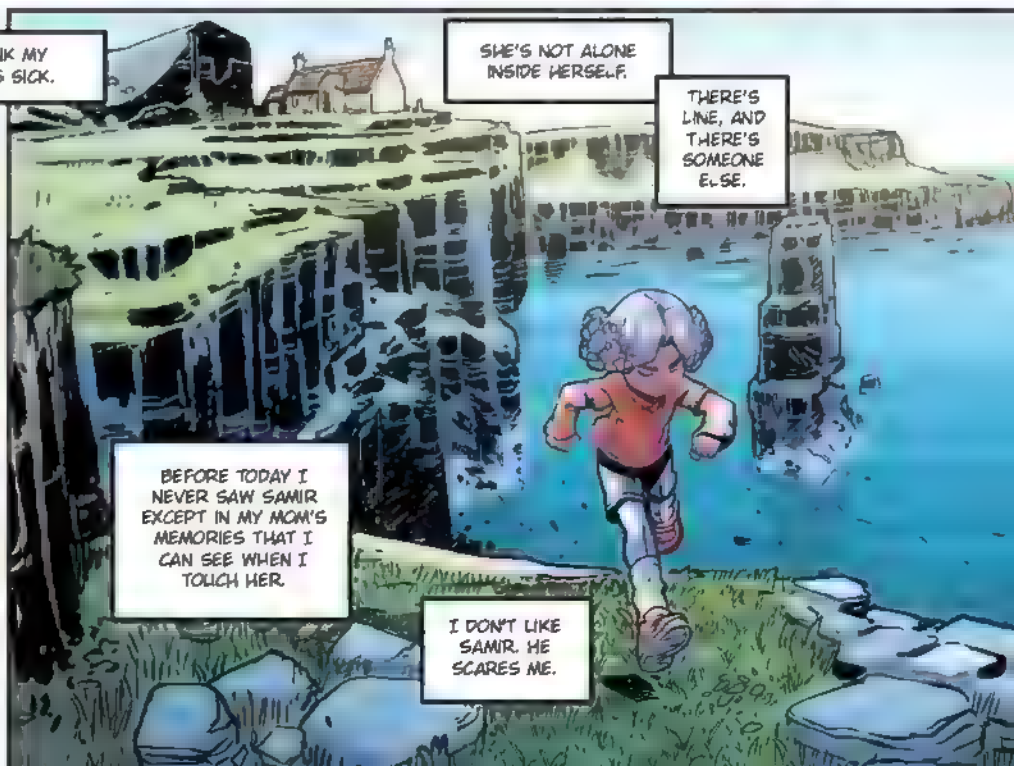
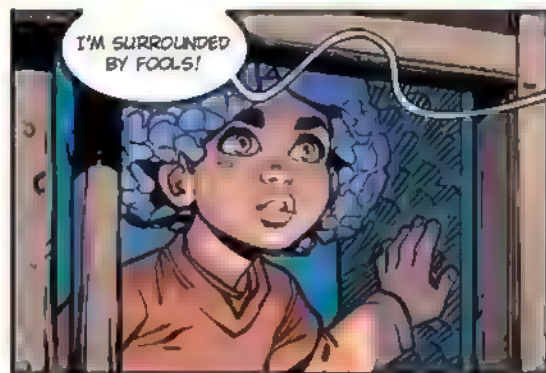
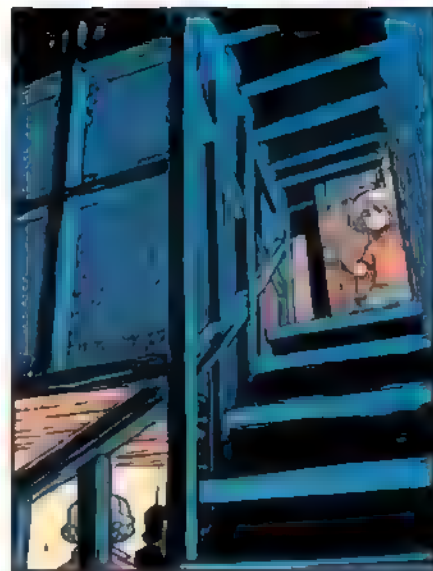
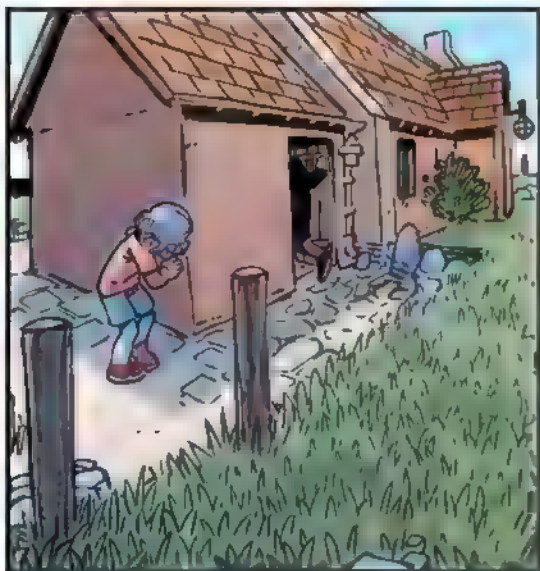
WE... WE HAD SOME TROUBLE FINDING THE GAS STATION...



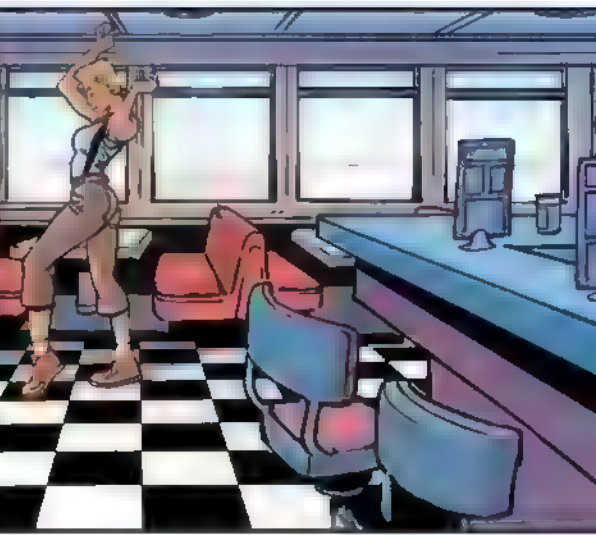
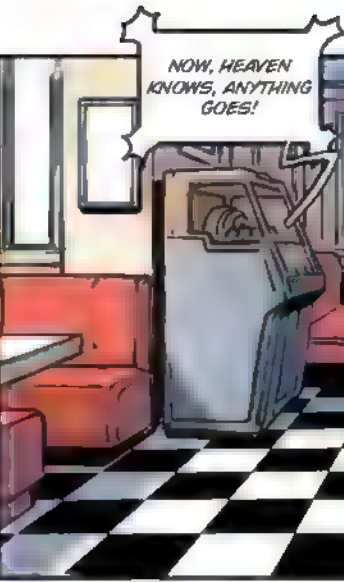
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE YOU BETTER MAKE SURE YOU SUCCEED THIS TIME!



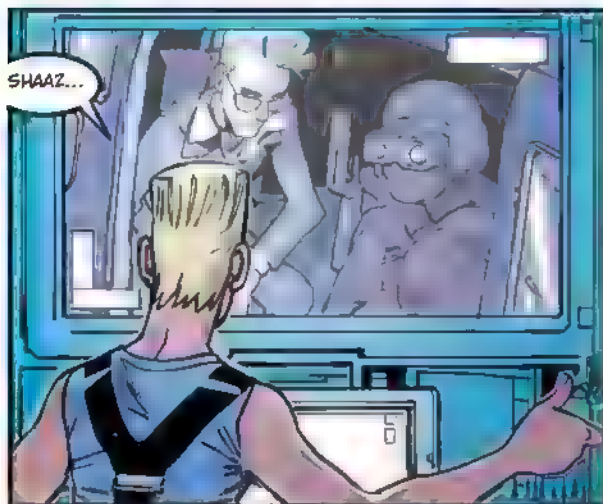




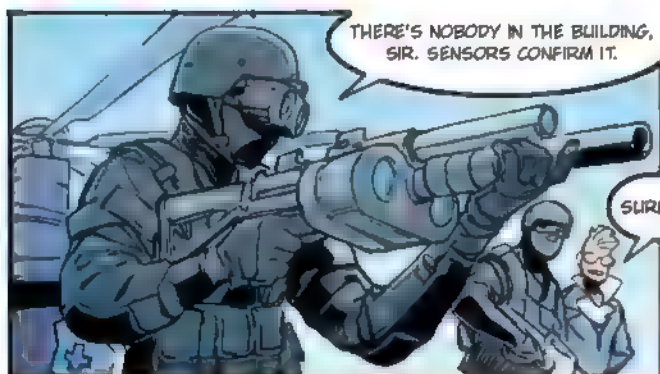
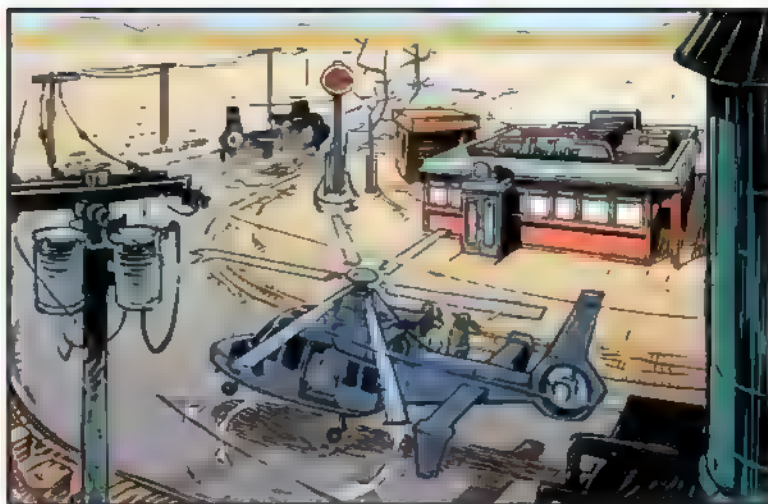






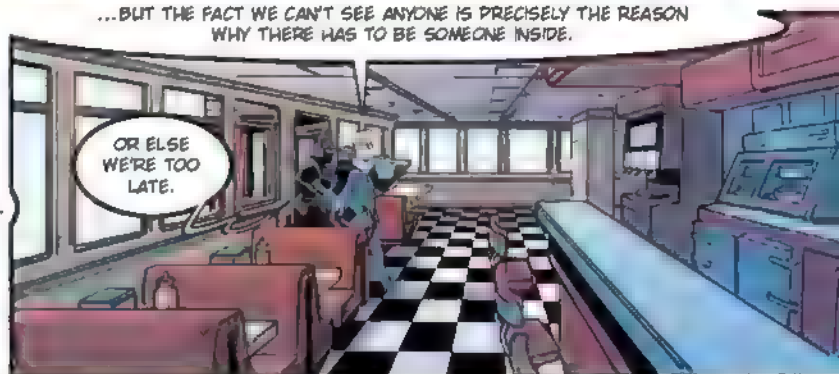


SHAAZ...



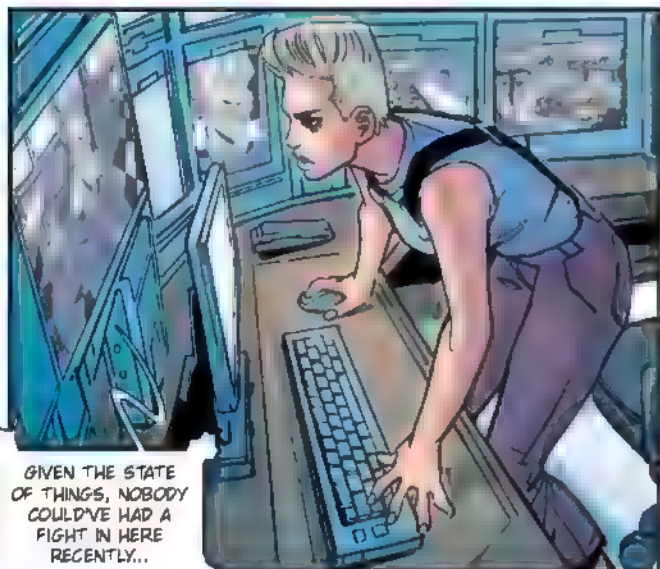
THERE'S NOBODY IN THE BUILDING, SIR. SENSORS CONFIRM IT.

SURE...



...BUT THE FACT WE CAN'T SEE ANYONE IS PRECISELY THE REASON WHY THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE INSIDE.

OR ELSE WE'RE TOO LATE.



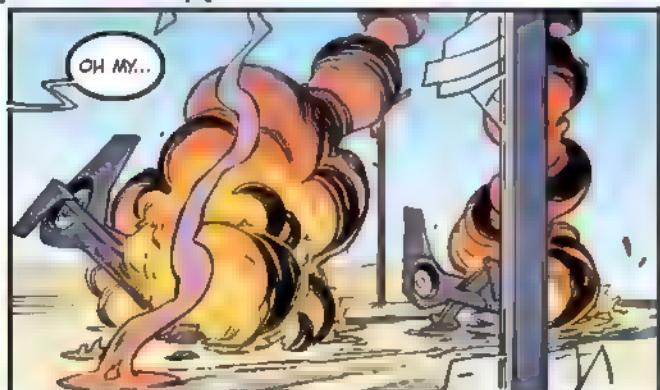
GIVEN THE STATE OF THINGS, NOBODY COULD'VE HAD A FIGHT IN HERE RECENTLY...



MIGHT AS WELL SMILE, BECAUSE YOU'RE ON CAMERA!



WHAT THE...?!



OH MY...

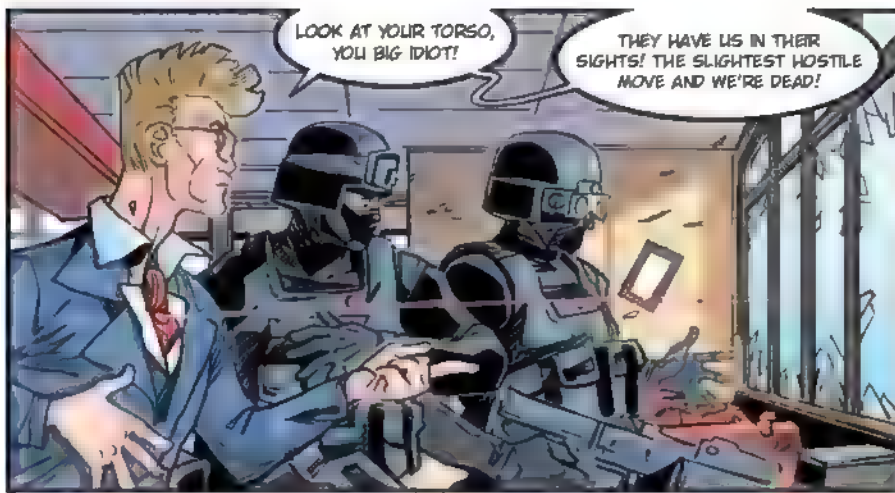


NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT.

WE DIDN'T EVEN START AND IT'S ALREADY OVER.

AREN'T WE GONNA FIGHT BACK?



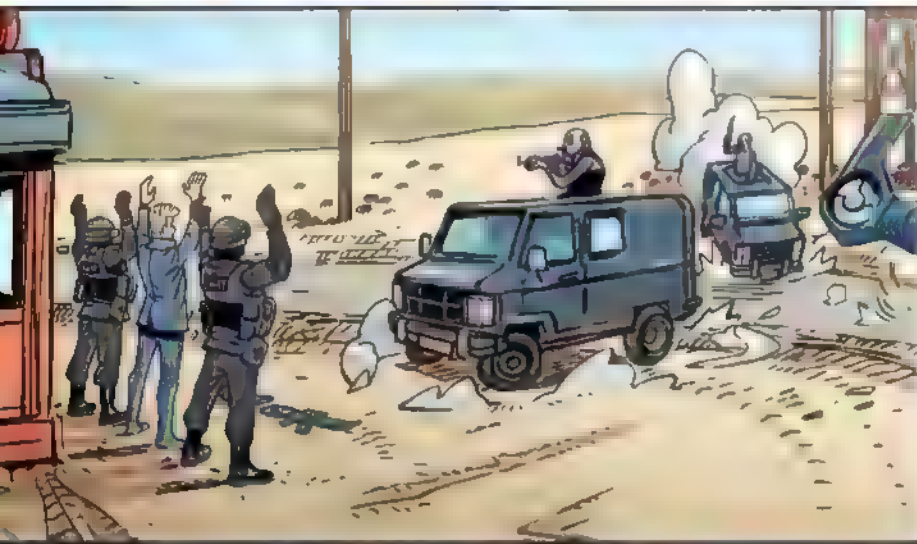


LOOK AT YOUR TORSO,  
YOU BIG IDIOT!

THEY HAVE US IN THEIR  
SIGHTS! THE SLIGHTEST HOSTILE  
MOVE AND WE'RE DEAD!



DROP YOUR WEAPON,  
PUT YOUR HANDS UP,  
AND FOLLOW ME.

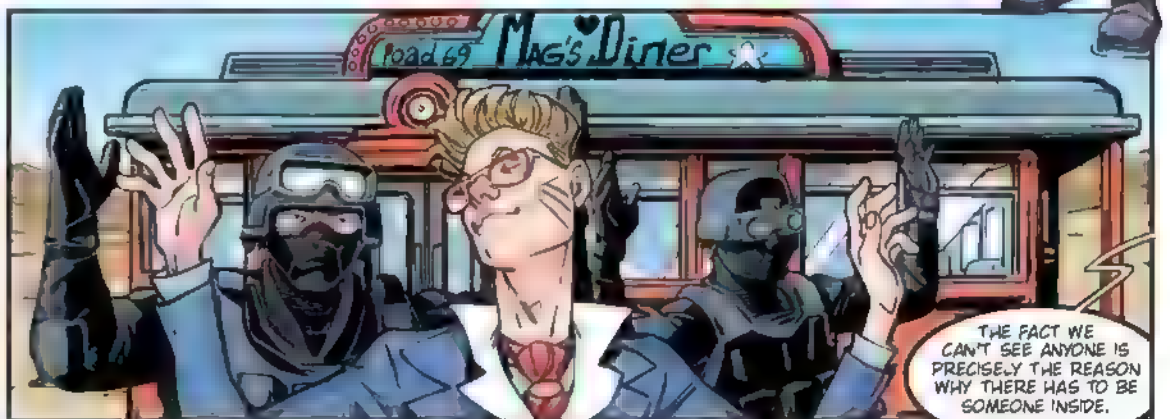


I SUPPOSE YOU'RE  
SAMIR'S MEN?

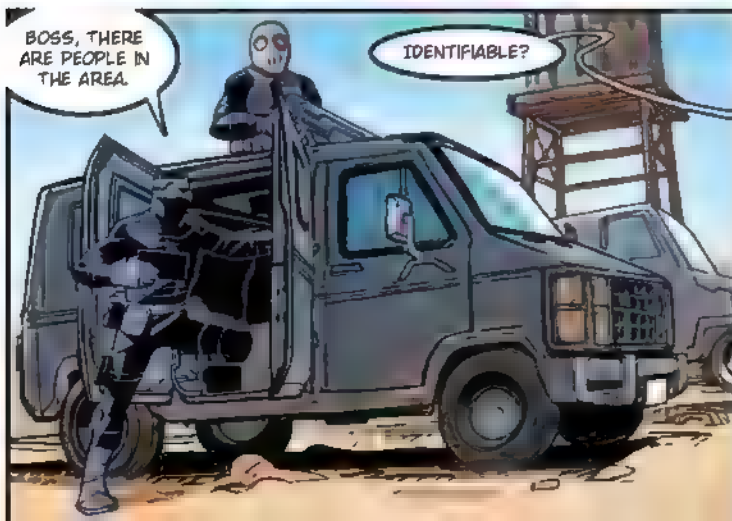


WHERE ARE  
THE MONKEYS?

THERE'S NOBODY HERE.  
THE PLACE IS EMPTY.



THE FACT WE  
CAN'T SEE ANYONE IS  
PRECISELY THE REASON  
WHY THERE HAS TO BE  
SOMEONE INSIDE.



BOSS, THERE  
ARE PEOPLE IN  
THE AREA.

IDENTIFIABLE?



AN OLD MAN WHO MUST HAVE  
SEEN THE EXPLOSIONS. HE'S  
RUNNING NORTH.



BRING HIM TO ME. SAMIR  
DOESN'T WANT ANY  
WITNESSES.



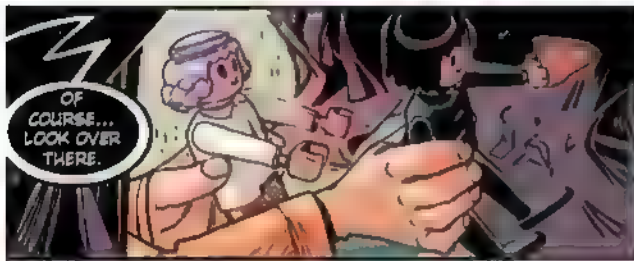


ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHERE YOU LEFT THE EGG?



IT WATCHED...

SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED ANYTHING ELSE...



OF COURSE... LOOK OVER THERE.

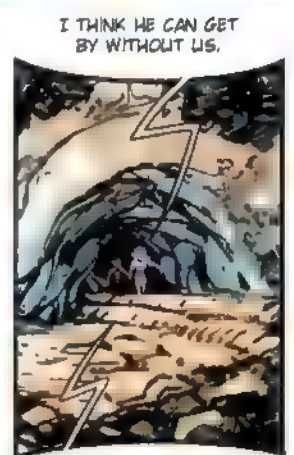


DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND HIM.



I'M NOT SO SURE.

WHY NOT?

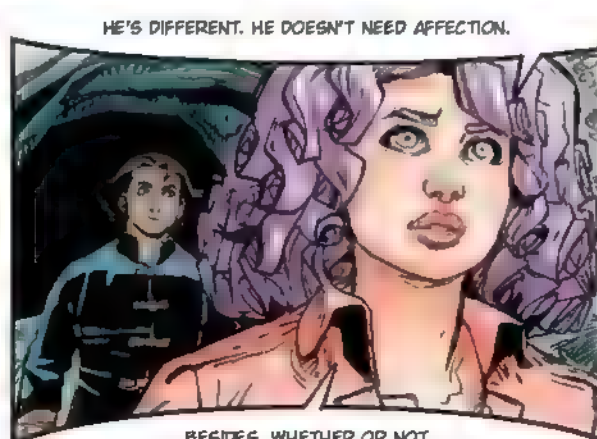


I THINK HE CAN GET BY WITHOUT US.

NEITHER OF US CAN GIVE HIM WHAT HE NEEDS.

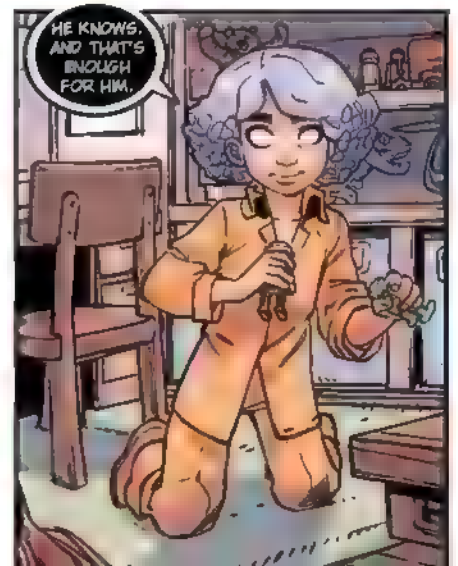


WHAT ABOUT CARE? THE LOVE OF A MOTHER AND FATHER...



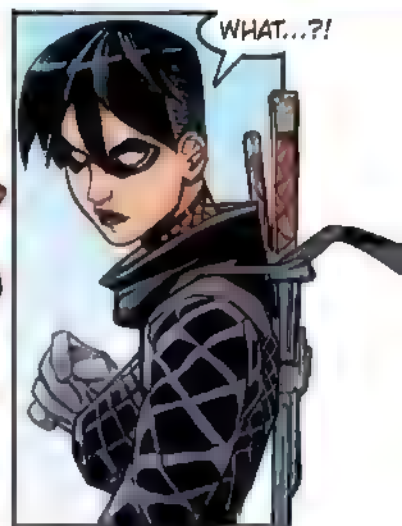
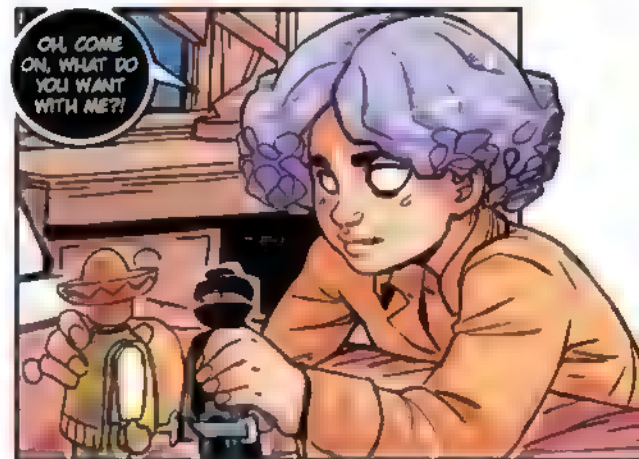
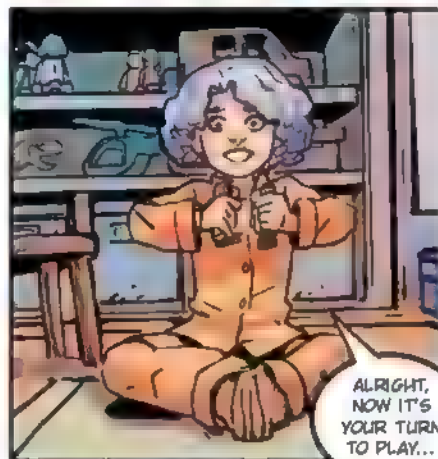
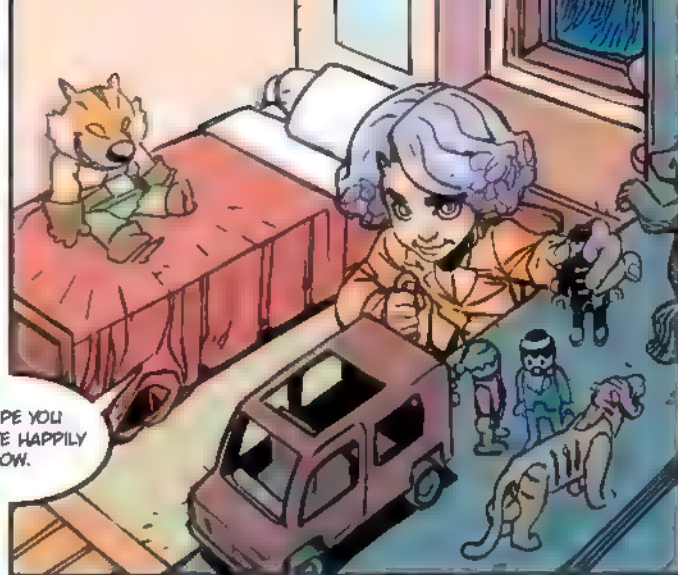
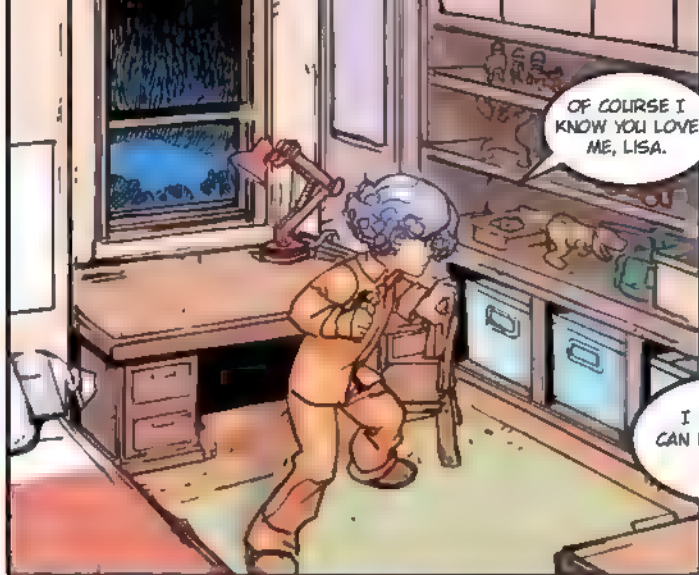
HE'S DIFFERENT. HE DOESN'T NEED AFFECTION.

BESIDES, WHETHER OR NOT WE'RE THERE, WE'RE STILL CONNECTED TO HIM.

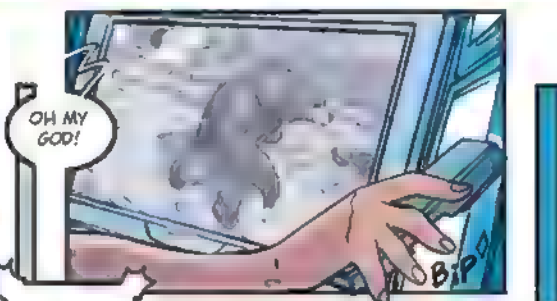
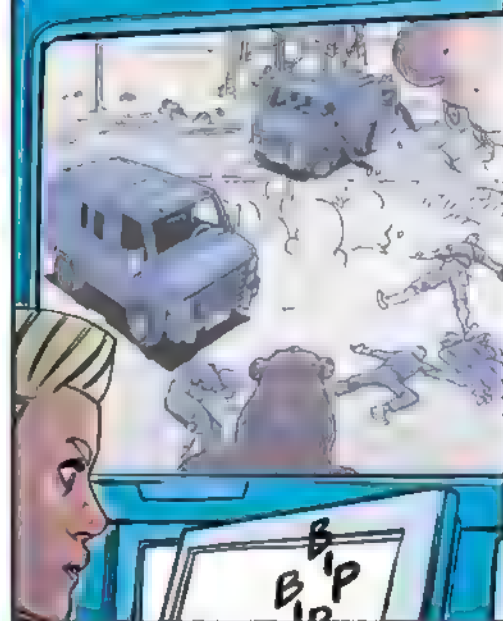


HE KNOWS, AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR HIM.



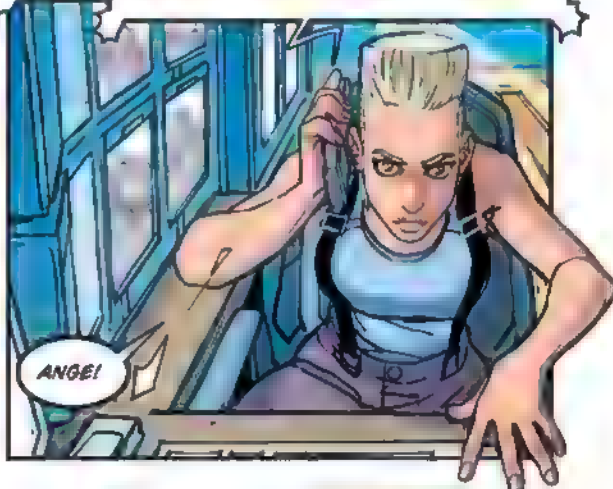




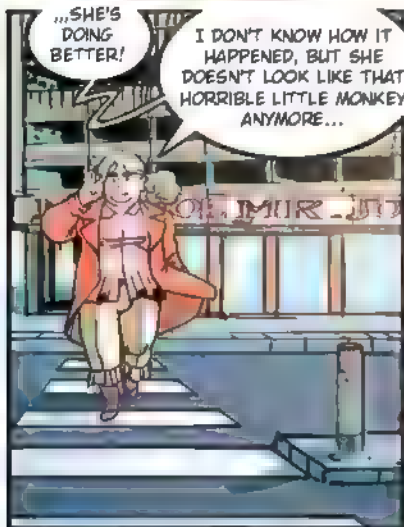


HEY BEAUTIFUL!

I JUST GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL AND I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOME NEWS ABOUT EWA...



ANGE!



I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT HORRIBLE LITTLE MONKEY ANYMORE...



AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS THE MEDICINE THAT WAS CAUSING IT. BUT THE DOCTOR TOLD ME HE HADN'T GIVEN HER ANY YET...

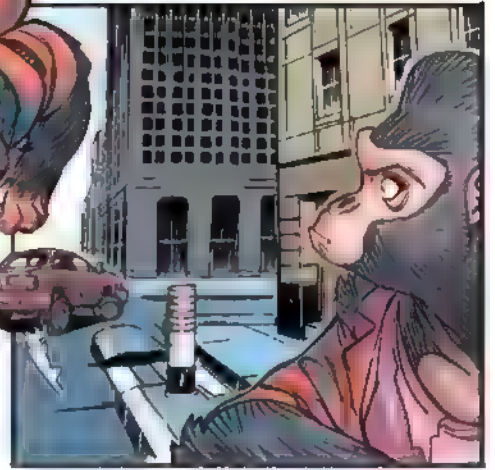
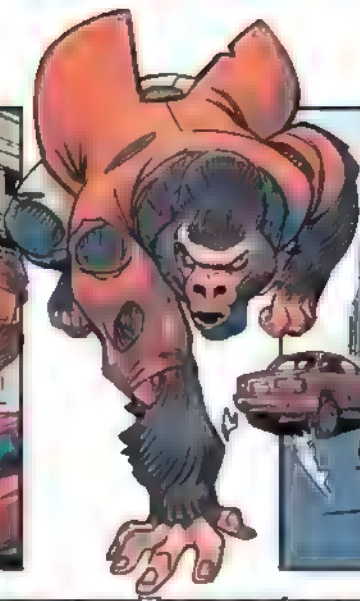
WATCH OUT!



I DON'T KNOW HOW IT...

OH MY GOD!



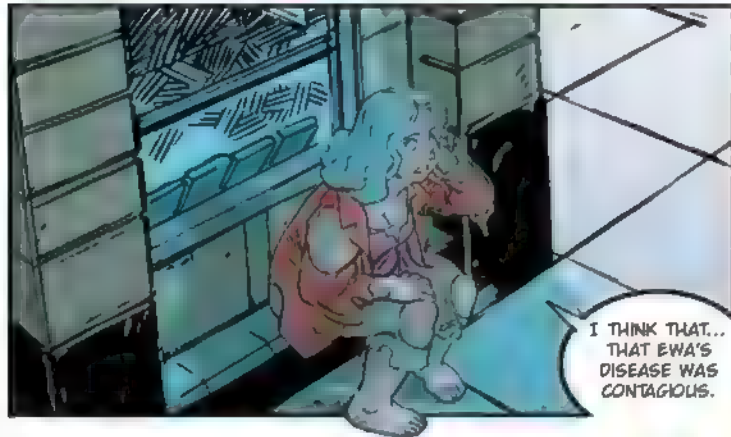


MARGARET?  
HEY! ANSWER  
ME!

MARGARET?!



I'M OKAY, DARLIN'...



I THINK THAT...  
THAT EWA'S  
DISEASE WAS  
CONTAGIOUS.



MARGARET, WE ALREADY TALKED  
ABOUT THIS... IT'S NOT A DISEASE.

I KNOW,  
I KNOW...

WE'LL TALK  
ABOUT IT WHEN  
I'M BACK.

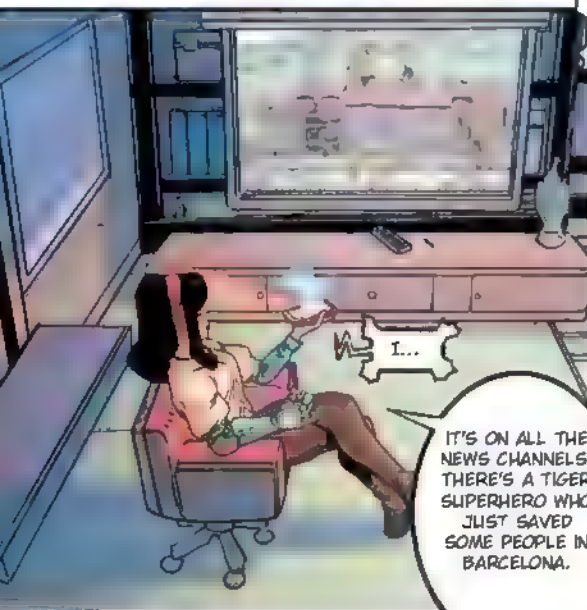
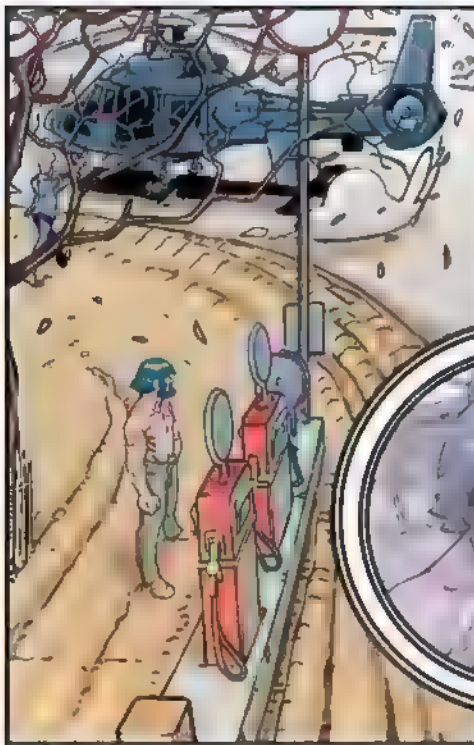


NO, DON'T MOVE. I'LL  
COME MEET YOU.

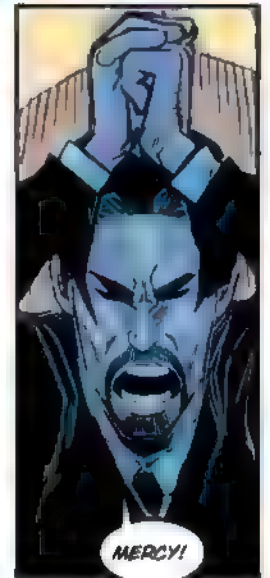
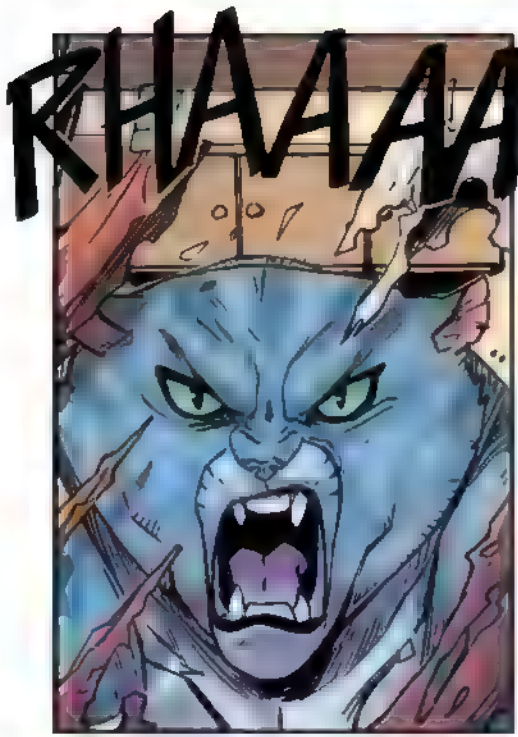


IT'S NOT  
SAFE HERE  
ANymore.

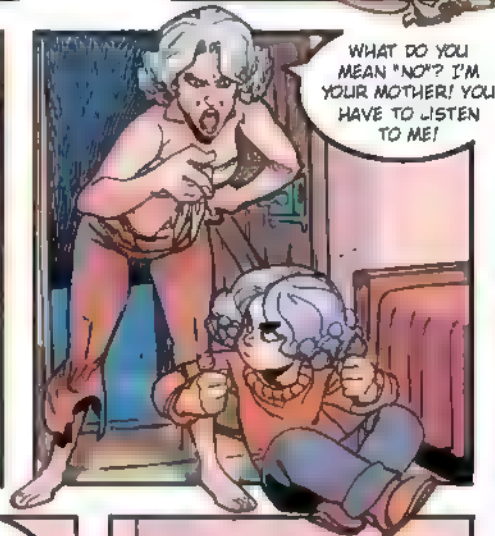
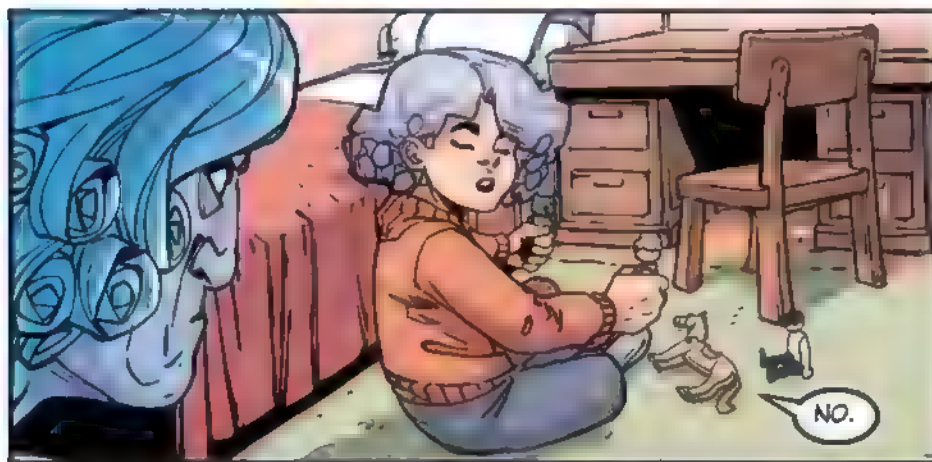
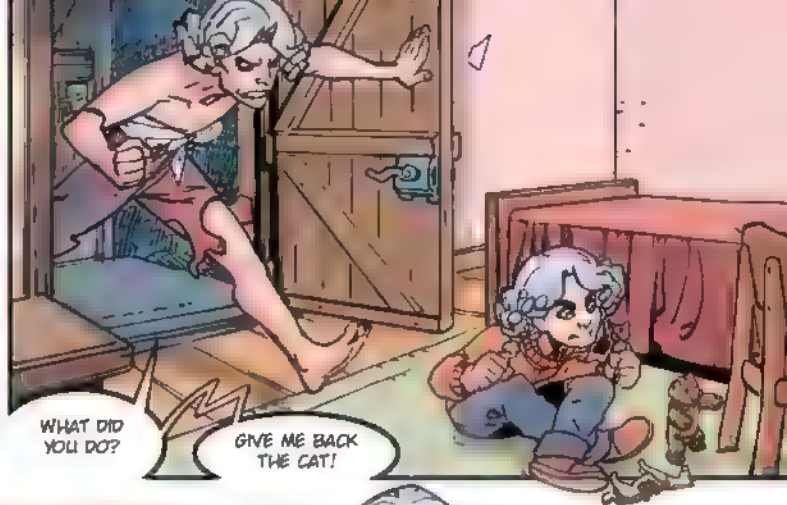
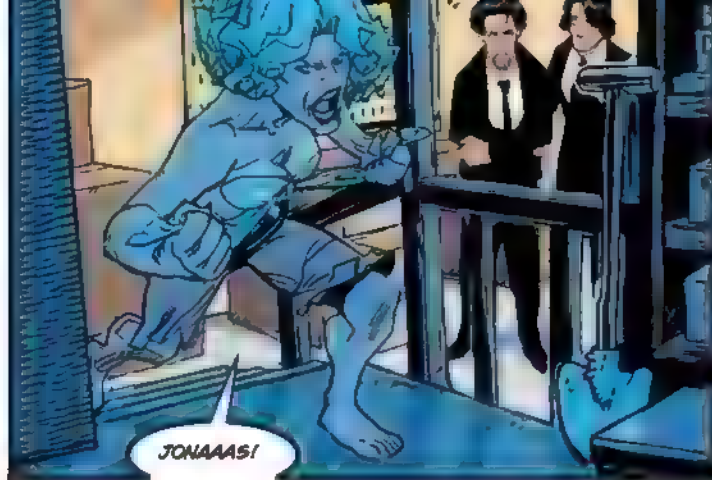




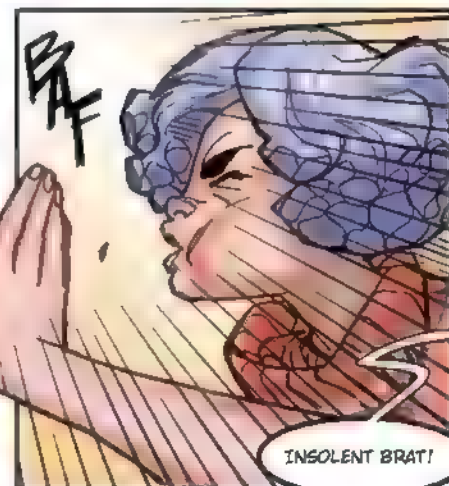
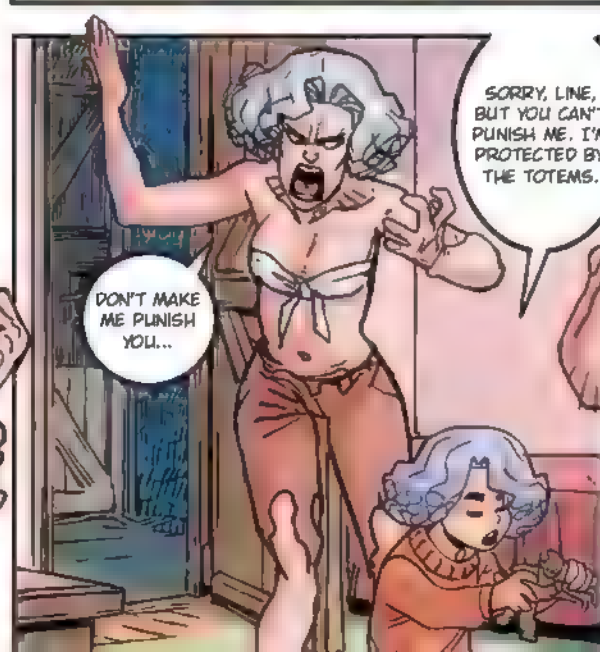
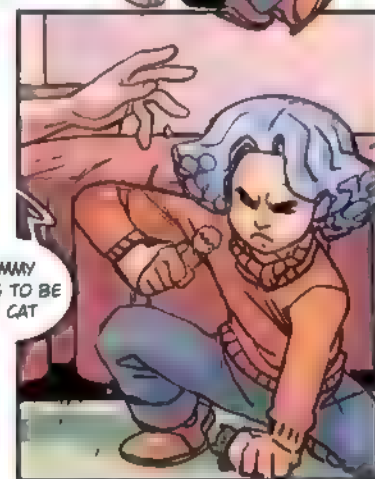
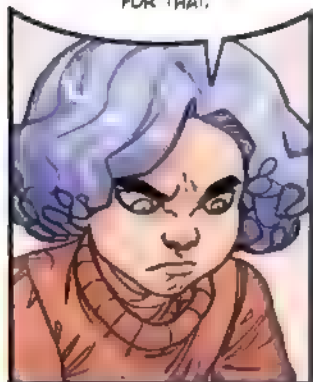








I DON'T WANT YOU TO USE  
YOUR POWERS TO HURT PEOPLE!  
THE DIZHIS AREN'T HERE  
FOR THAT.





MEANWHILE, IN KANGBASHI.

ARE YOU SURE WE'LL FIND YOUR FAMILY HERE? THIS CITY SEEMS EVEN MORE DESERTED THAN USUAL.

I'M SURE THEY DIDN'T STAY IN THE BUILDING AFTER IT WAS DESTROYED IN OUR LAST FIGHT HERE... BUT IF THERE'S SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT HAVING A PARANOID FAMILY: THEY TAKE PRECAUTIONS!

?!

GIVEN THE NUMBER OF EMPTY APARTMENTS AROUND HERE, I DOUBT IT WAS HARD FOR THEM TO FIND SOMETHING BETTER.

YEAH, IT WOULDN'T BE HARD...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

OF COURSE AND I EVEN FOUND IT!

TADA!

GREAT. AT LEAST WE HAVE TRANSPORTATION NOW!

LOOK!

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

AND NOW?

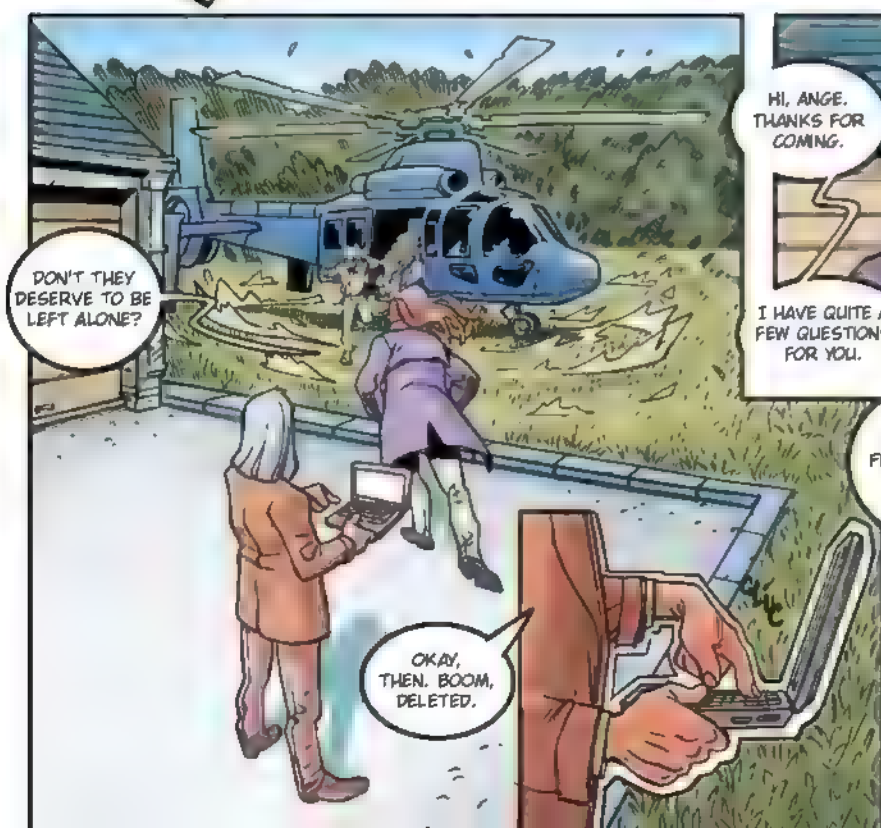
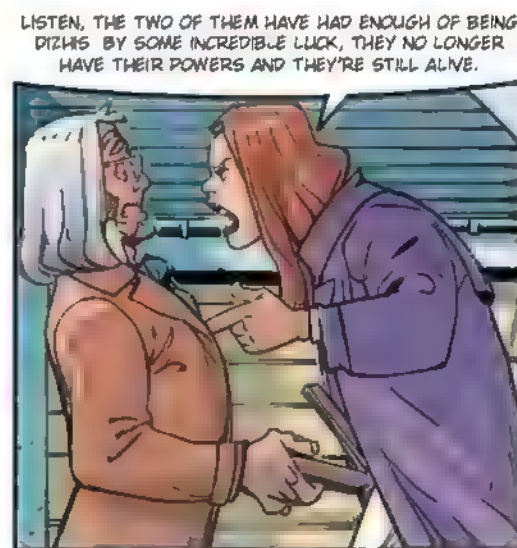
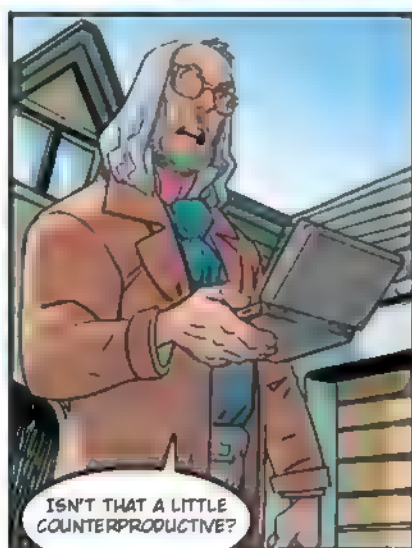
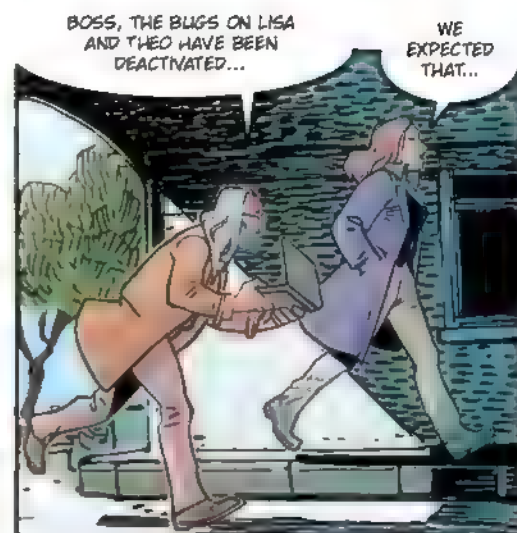
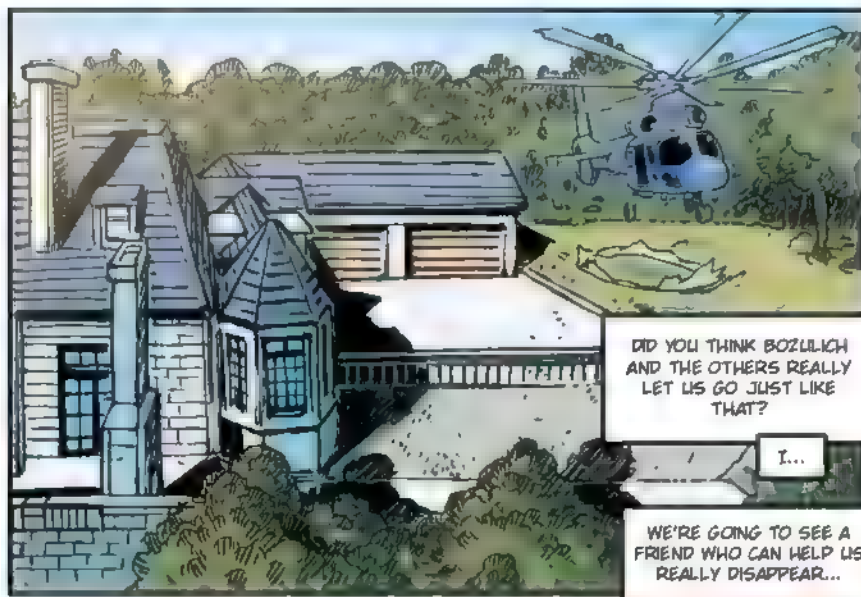
A HIDDEN ADDRESS? AMAZING!

SHALL WE?

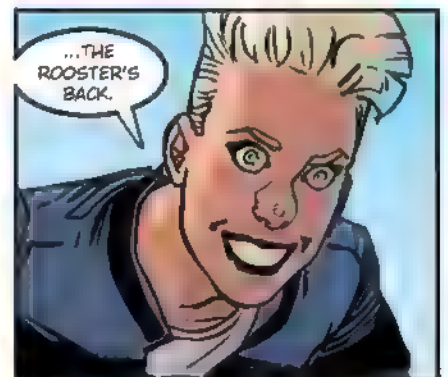
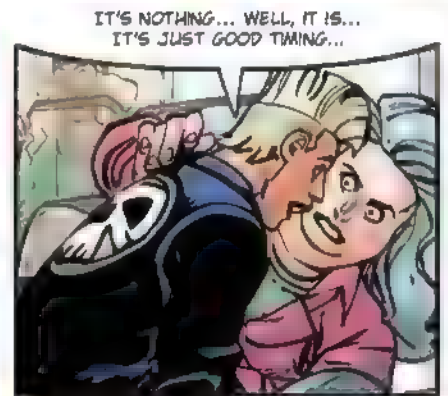
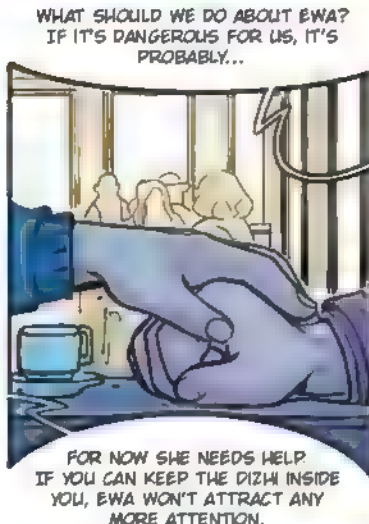
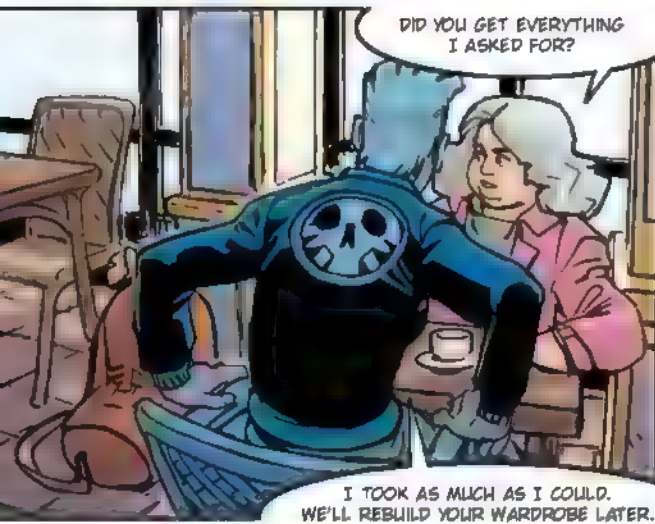
IN HALF AN HOUR WE NEED TO GO SEE AN ACQUAINTANCE, FIRST.

WHAT FOR?











FRANK... I'VE BEEN  
LOOKING OVER YOU  
FOR A WEEK.



THE ARCHVIST TOLD ME  
ABOUT LISA AND THEO'S  
SON. YOU WERE ALREADY  
DEAD BY THEN.

SHIT. I'M TALKING TO A  
DEAD MAN ABOUT THE  
SPIRIT OF AN UNBORN  
CHILD...

THAT'S A GOOD  
DEFINITION OF  
INSANITY, RIGHT?

SPEAKING OF... DID YOU  
KNOW MY GIRLFRIEND  
IS IN THE MADHOUSE?

AMELIA'S USING MY FAMILY'S MONEY AND POWER.  
APPARENTLY SHE'S TAKING A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF A  
LIKING TO IT... BUT I'M LETTING HER.

LISA AND THEO HAVE DISAPPEARED. THEIR  
KID IS APPARENTLY SOME SORT OF MEGA-  
DIZZY. NOBODY KNOWS WHERE HE IS OR  
WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF.

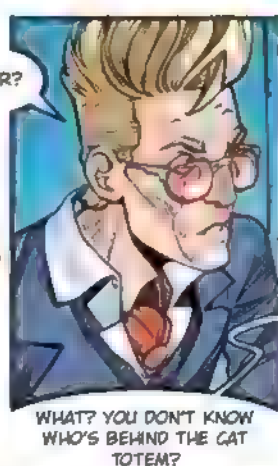
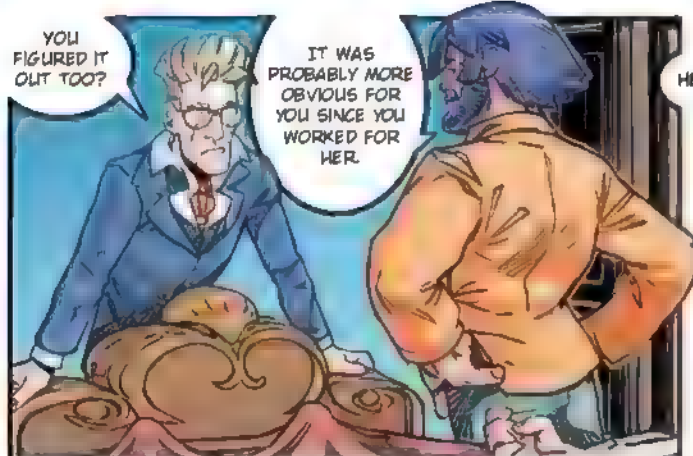
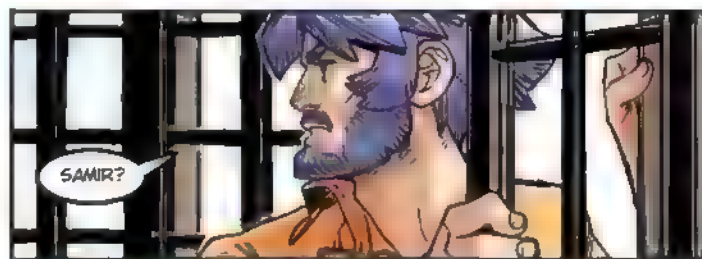
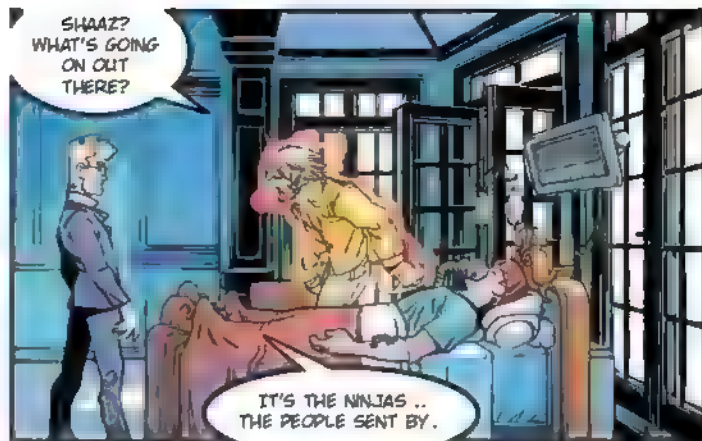
OR THAT THE GIRL I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT  
DISAPPEARED WITH A GUY WHO STOLE THE  
TIGER TOTEM FROM ME...

NO, YOU KNOW WHAT? THE WORST  
PART IS THAT I FEEL SO TIRED  
THAT I JUST WANT TO DROP  
EVERYTHING.

I'M TIRED OF HAVING HAD TO PLAY  
HERO EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.  
IT'S LIKE A NORMAL LIFE  
WAS STOLEN FROM ME.

IT SUCKS HERE. THE GOVERNMENT'S TAKEN  
TOO MUCH OF AN INTEREST IN US. BUT THAT'S  
NOT THE WORST PART. NO, ON TOP OF ALL THAT,  
THERE'S A THREAT THAT UNDOUBTEDLY STEMS  
FROM SAMIR...



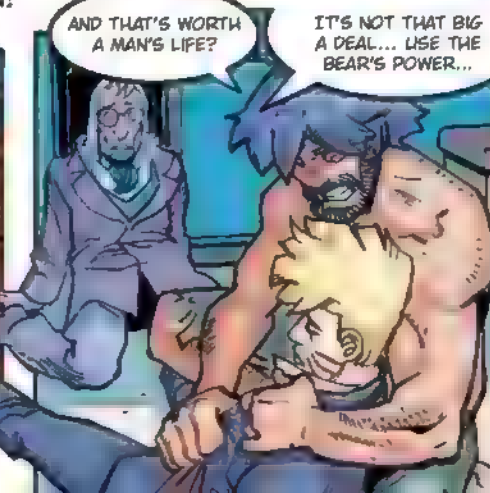
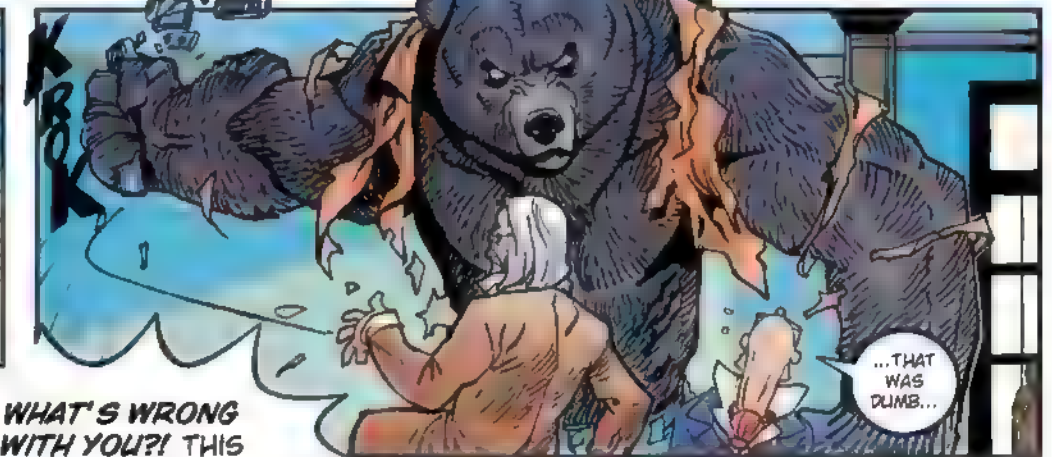
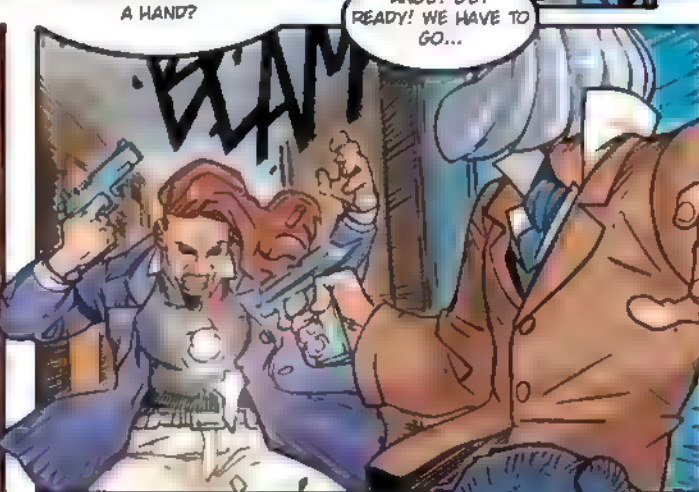
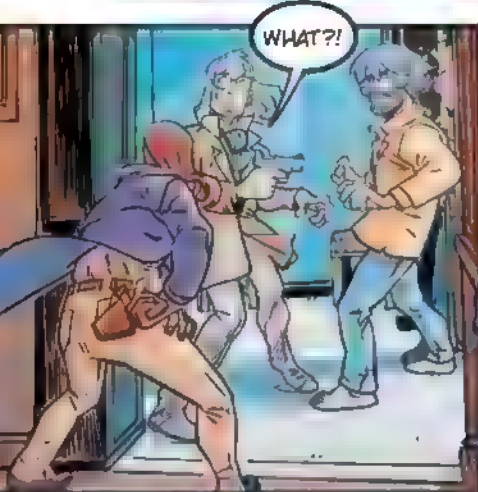
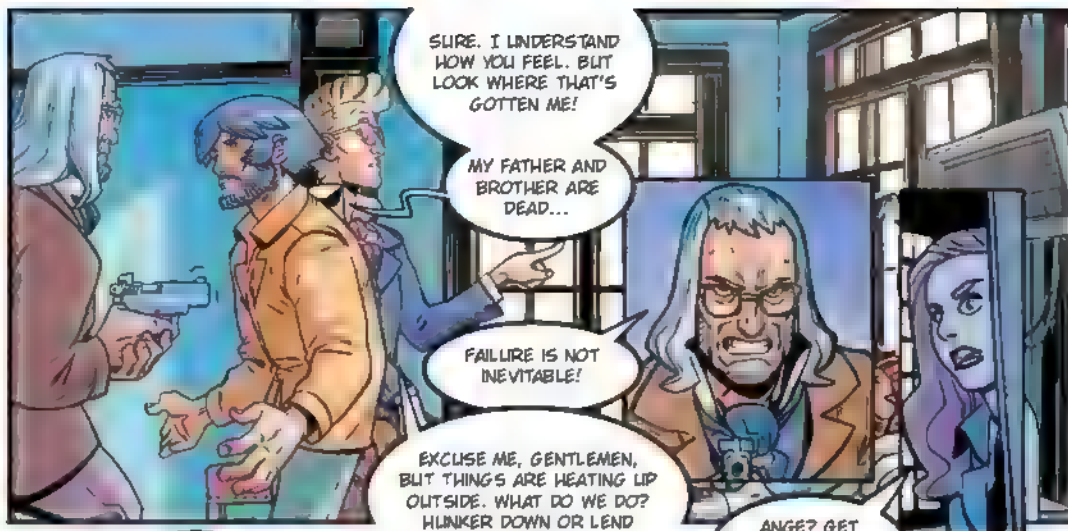


ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M PRETTY SURE YOU DON'T SHARE SAMIR'S IDEAS, EVEN THOUGH YOU LOVE LINE..

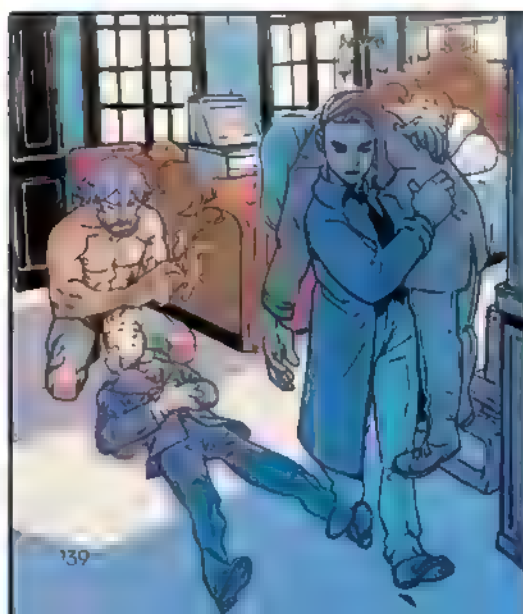
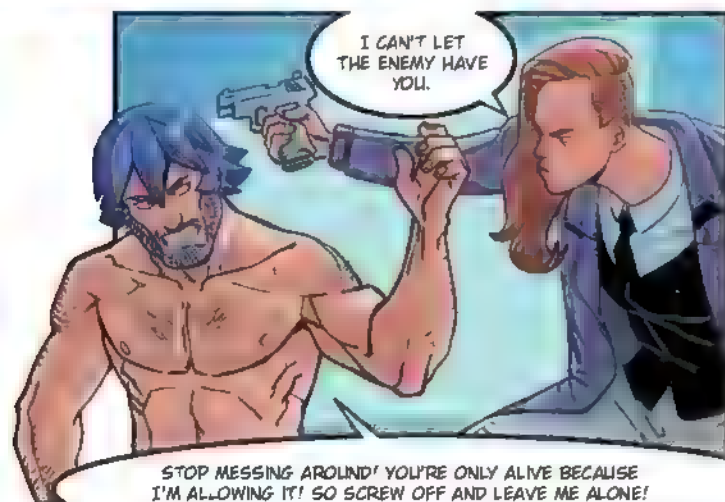
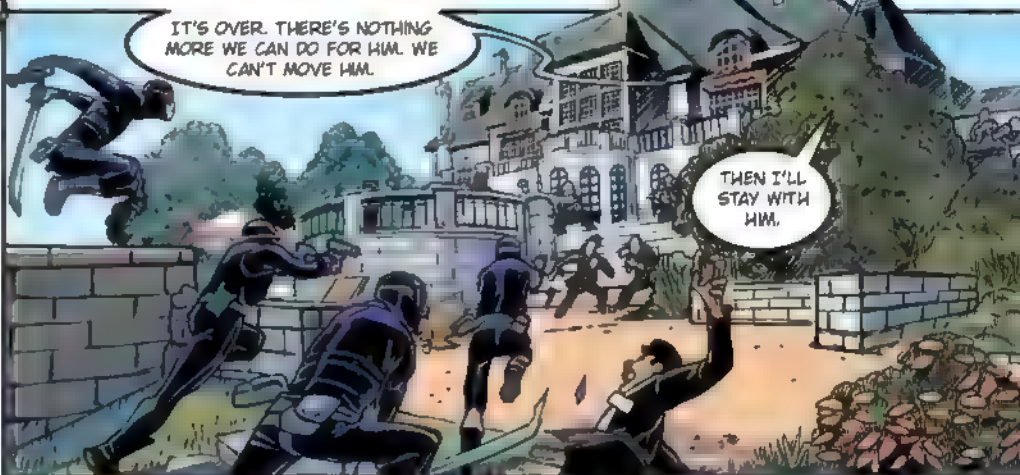
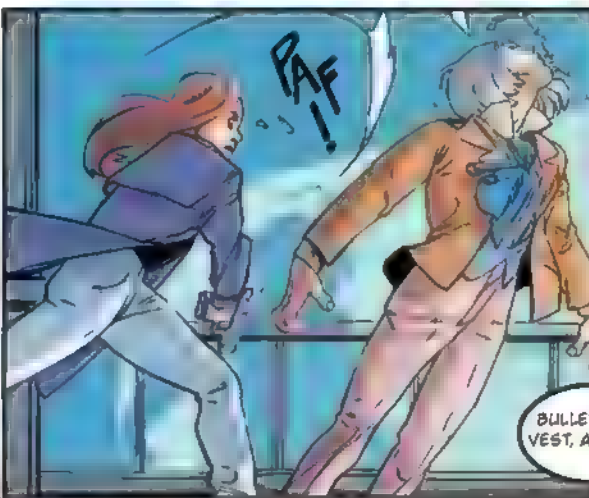
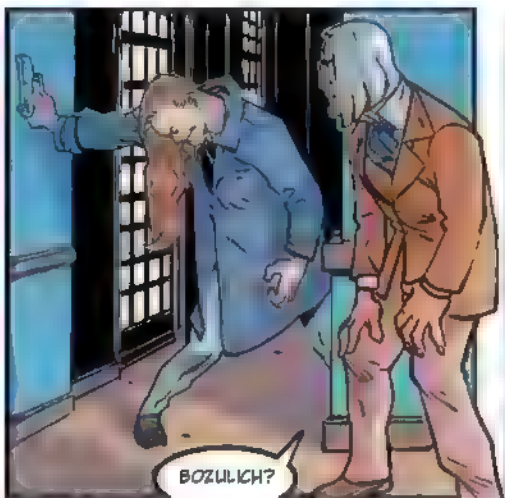
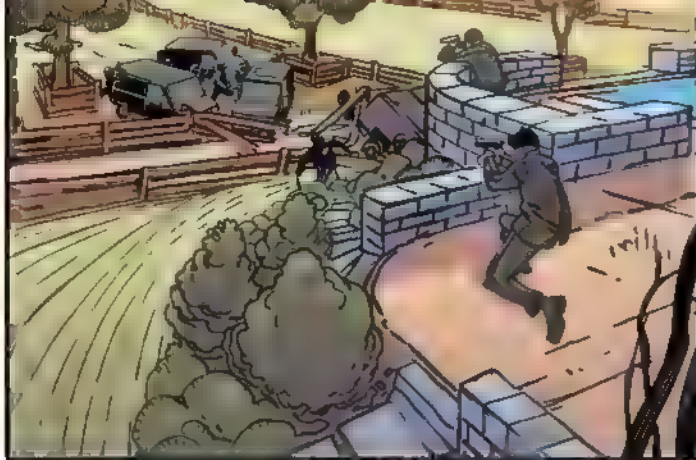


YES, BUT YOU'RE WELL SUITED TO UNDERSTAND ME. EVEN IF I OPPOSE WHAT LINE'S TRYING TO DO, I WON'T LET ANYBODY HURT HER.

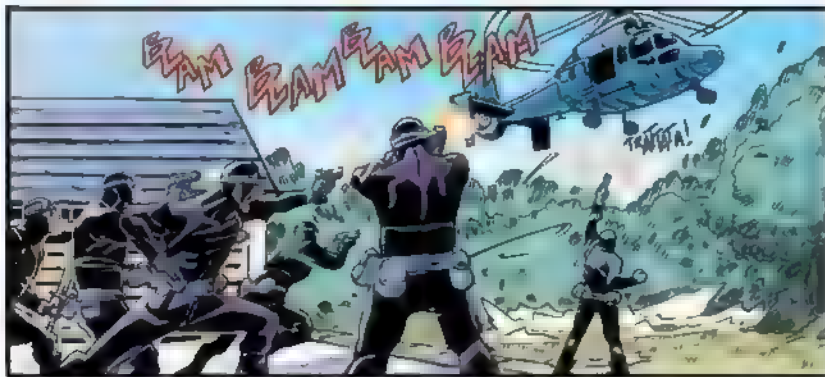








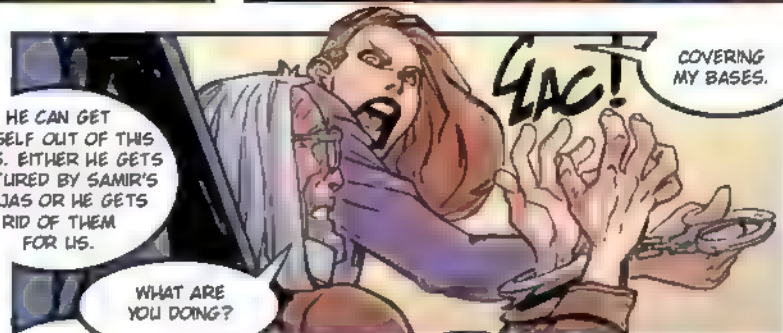




WHERE'S SHAAZ?

YOU KILLED HIM, REMEMBER?

AND ANGE?

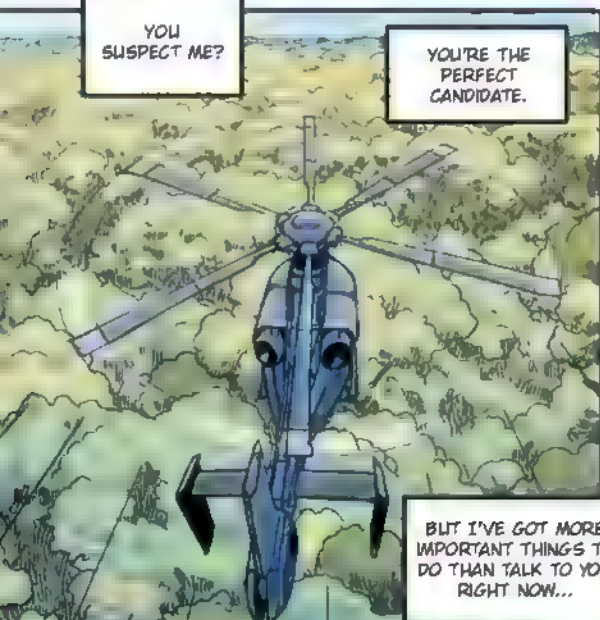


COVERING MY BASES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HE CAN GET HIMSELF OUT OF THIS MESS. EITHER HE GETS CAPTURED BY SAMIR'S NINJAS OR HE GETS RID OF THEM FOR US.

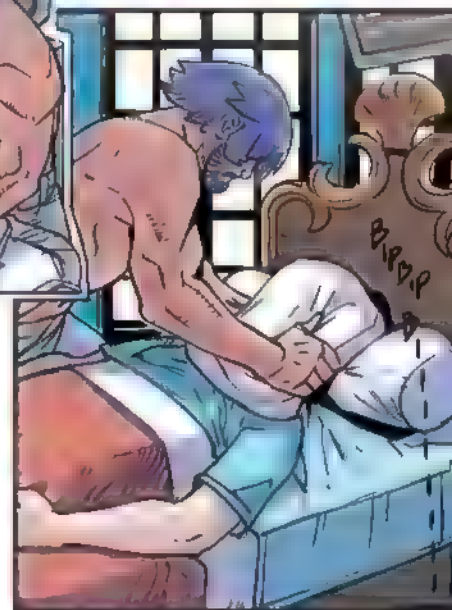
SHAAZ SEVERELY UNDERESTIMATED HOW DANGEROUS THE NINJAS ARE, BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN HOW THEY MANAGED TO FIND US. I'M BETTING ON AN INSIDE MAN IN THE COMPOUND...



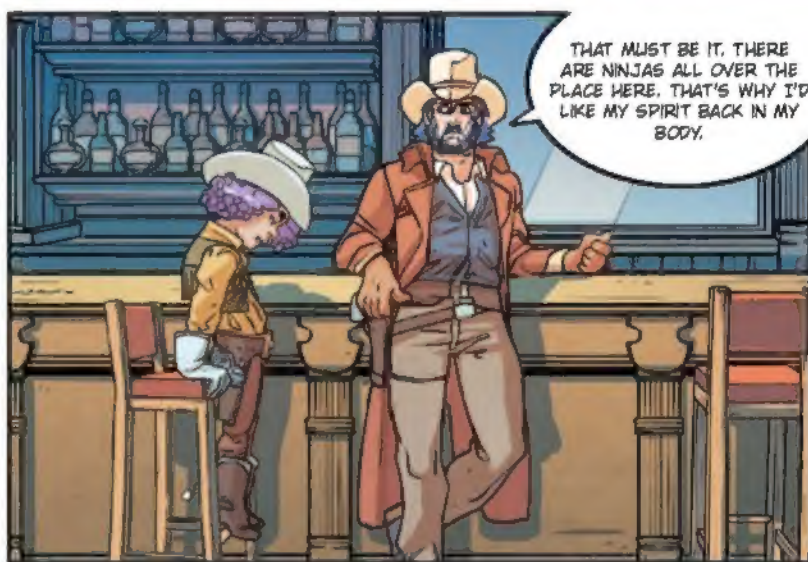
YOU SUSPECT ME?

YOU'RE THE PERFECT CANDIDATE.

BUT I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN TALK TO YOU RIGHT NOW...















JONAS?!

WHAT DID YOU  
DO? YOU FEEL  
SO WEAK...



I...?!

BIP  
BIP BIP



BOSS, THE MISSION IS A  
FAILURE. THEY MANAGED TO  
ESCAPE THE CENTER BEFORE  
WE COULD INTERVENE...

BUT WE  
SCARED THEM...

THEY'LL GO UNDERGROUND LIKE FLUGTIVES NOW...



MMMM!



SLOWLY... THEY THINK WE'RE  
DEAD AND IT'S BETTER OFF  
THAT WAY.



...WHAT'S  
GOING ON?

I THINK WE BOTH  
OWE OUR LIVES TO  
THE SAME PERSON.  
I'LL FILL YOU IN  
LATER.





I NEED SOME REST. I NEED TO FIND A PLACE THAT REMINDS ME OF A HAPPIER TIME.



I DIDN'T GO BACK TO CHICAGO. I CAME HERE.



END OF  
PART 12